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HOMES & Gardens

'I will beat my cancer,' SAYS LORRAINE

THE GEM regularly features stories about girls, women, men and boys having their hair cut – and in the case of men, their beards and body hair removed – for charity.

Often, for girls and women with long locks, the hair is braided before cutting to be donated to the Little Princess Trust, which weaves wigs and hairpieces for children of either sex that have lost their hair through chemotherapy for cancer, or through illness.

Lorraine Spencer, 55, mother to four, grandmother to three – "With an other due imminently," she said – from Barry, had her tresses cut on July 3 at Ri Style in Barry, and has donated them to the Little Princess Trust.

Nothing, seemingly, unusual about that.

However, Lorraine's story is different.

Lorraine has breast cancer, has had a mastectomy and has begun her own course of chemotherapy.

"I thought: 'I'll lose my hair anyway, so I'd rather have it cut off and give it to a good cause rather than find it on the pillow or watch it go down the plughole'," said Lorraine.

Yet in addition to it being an act of altruism, Lorraine, saw it as a chance to take control, to empower herself in the face of a disease over which she had no control.

She describes feeling an "...an unknown strength because of the love and devotion of my beautiful family and friends".

"Divine intervention?" pondered Lorraine, before answering her own question with "Who knows, but I never lost faith, although I doubted at times."

Lorraine spoke of her doubts, and some difficulties she has faced: a broken heart when her husband of just a year left her; one year later, the death of her estranged father; then, three days before Christmas, the death of her stepfather.

"He was the rock of both his family and ours," she said, adding "I thought our world was shattered."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Local lifeguards pick up MBE

ABOVE: The volunteers of the Rhondda (Cold Knap) Lifeguards are celebrating after being presented with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), the MBE for volunteer groups. SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 7.

Countdown to GlastonBARRY!

by TIM CHAPMAN
07891 690798 or email tim.chapman@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

GLASTONBARRY has established itself as one of the UK's top tribute band festivals – this year's event at Romilly Park was sold out with weeks to go and people are coming from as far away as Holland, Spain and France.

It is being held over the weekend of July 29-30.

The festival is the brainchild of cousins Matt Blumberg and Ross Mackintosh and was launched in 2013.

This week, Ross told The GEM: "I'm delighted to say that we have completely sold out GlastonBARRY and this year's festival is so much bigger than before."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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- Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

CONCERNS THAT INCINERATOR WILL NOT BE STRICTLY MONITORED

I WOULD like to comment on the article in The GEM on July 6, which said: "The action group is campaigning against an environmental permit being granted to the Biomass UK No 2 Ltd plant at Barry docks because it is said it could be hazardous to the health of local people."

The company says it would be strictly monitored by Natural Resources Wales through the terms of the licence.

I, along with many other local people, attended a meeting at the Castleland Community Centre, which was chaired by Jane Hutt.

Also in attendance were a few representatives from National Resources Wales.

When asked how often they would be able to monitor the incinerator, they were a bit unsure – maybe only once a month – as they do not have enough personnel to commit further.

So how can Biomass UK No 2 say "it would be strictly monitored by National Resources Wales"?

Brian Bishop,
Barry.

What approach was taken to cemetery?

COUN John's letter, 'Let's all look after Cemetery Approach', The GEM, July 6 makes use of the collective word 'we' to claim credit.

I have no recollection of Coun John or his Llantwit First group giving a commitment to 'bring about' Cemetery Approach Gardens and not to build homes.

I do recall the Labour and Conservative 2012 election campaigns eventually promising to improve Cemetery Approach, and the continuous commitment of Barry Town Council to save the land for the community.

The Labour campaign also promised to give the land to the town council. It then took the Labour/Llantwit First coalition almost five years to start the work.

Coun John was a member of the coalition council – autumn 2007/08 – that tried to force through the building of a high-density housing development on this land, and spent public funds on legal advice to overcome community protest.

People will recall the Public Services Ombudsman's decision declaring maladministration by that same council 'in failing to identify the status of the land'.

In addition, the Vale Council did not withdraw from wanting to sell this open space to Newydd Housing Association; it was the developer that ultimately pulled out of the public inquiry process, Christmas 2008.

Dennis Harkus,
Save Cemetery Approach Action Group.

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'Council should tackle problem bicyclists'

AS both a cyclist and motorist, I feel I have to respond to the grossly inaccurate letter from Karl-James Langford who quotes himself as being the Liberal Party Parliamentary spokesperson.

Contrary to his misguided belief, motor vehicle road tax is not used to maintain our highways and byways.

Up until 1937, it was ring-fenced for this purpose but since that time it is simply a general form of taxation. His information appears to be as outdated as his party's last term in office.

I appreciate his comments concerning rude and unthinking cyclists and agree with some of the comments he makes.

Unfortunately, the same can be said of reckless motorists who are equally abusive and rude and come perilously close to causing serious injury to cyclists of all ages.

However, I also pay for my car tax but choose to ride my cycle when opportunity affords itself, so please can we dispense with the tax/insurance debate that always dogs this issue.

We all pay our taxes for repair and maintenance of our vehicles/cycles through VAT etc.

What does frustrate me is the amount of Sir Bradley Wiggins wannabes who feel they can ride two or three abreast on any road and inconvenience absolutely anyone under the mantra of 'I am a road user'. It is thoughtless and selfish and does create dangerous situations.

So is it not time that the local authorities really played their part in this issue? Local authorities have the power to create bye-laws which insist that where a cycle path is provided then it must be used and failure to do so could result in appearance before the local magistrates court or the issue of a fixed penalty notice.

I am one of those rare people that use our cycle paths throughout the Vale and am really grateful to the Vale Council for providing them.

Proper use of these can remove the need for cycle helmets by more experienced cyclists (but I would not seek to dissuade people from wearing these).

Therefore, I call on the local authority to take up the cudgel in this matter.

As for Mr Langford's comments regarding cycles on trains, I would really have to question his experience of this. I take my cycle on the train and regularly see people both young and old doing the same, and I have yet to see anyone being deliberately obstructive in this activity. The rail operators have a code of practice in relation to taking cycles on trains which tends to prevent the types of issues arising to which he alludes.

So, the cyclists are not flaunting the law as he outlandishly claims and actually help to promote the 'green' environment of our local communities. Perhaps he and his party should be championing my call to make local authorities work pro-actively in achieving a safer and less stressful environment for local people?

Surely this could bring motorists and cyclists closer together and help make many of our busier roads much safer?

Peter Jenkins, Barry.

Bikes pay the same road tax as some vehicles!

IN reply to Mr Karl James Langford letter July 6 re 'Bicycle Riders 'Flaunt the Law': as a socially responsible group of cyclists who take our safety and that of other road users very seriously, we are getting increasingly frustrated with certain sectors of society who seem to publicise and criticise the actions of some cyclists and brand all with the same label, as seems to be the case with the letter from Mr Langford in The GEM last week.

We would like to raise a point for discussion. Most members of our group are car owners who indeed pay appropriate duty on the vehicles we own, alongside other taxes that contribute towards the upkeep of our road infrastructure.

May we add that we find it difficult to ride and drive simultaneously – so there may be a small case for us having an equal right to cycle on the roads where the law permits.

The last time we checked the emissions from the data provided by our bike manufacturer it was actually zero, this placing it in a band that attracts no Vehicle Excise Duty.

There are cars that attract the same banding based on their emissions also; perhaps Mr Langford may wish to educate himself on his 'motor tax payer' comment by researching: *www.gov.uk/vehicle- tax-rate-tables*.

We do, however, fear for future letters targeting Nissan Leaf drivers who now may incur his displeasure.

Lastly, we are a little quizzical as to what roads may be appropriate to use, if indeed we follow the suggestion of refraining from using 'arterial' roads and 'narrow country lanes': should we dismount and push between certain sections; however, this throws up the disastrous possibility of us collectively clogging up the footpaths as we proceed from A to B.

We would dearly love to meet up with Mr Langford over a coffee in order that he may assist with some of our route planning.

This letter is written from Wenvoe Wheelers, a cycling group who are inclusive, friendly, and wish to promote the benefits of cycling to all.

Should you wish to find out more or join, please contact through our website for more details at *www.wenvoewheelers .co.uk*

We wish Mr Langford and all GEM readers a happy and pleasant summer.

Wenvoe Wheelers.

PRAISE FOR WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE

THIS is a letter of praise for the Welsh Ambulance Service, whose service I use on a regular basis because of breathing problems.

All their drivers, bar none, give the very best service anyone could give with a smile – that's worth a million doctors' tablets and prescriptions.

I have just returned from the Barry Hospital with one of the nicest drivers, Peter. His smile is infectious to all his passengers, and his chat makes everyone feel better.

Many thanks for all they do to help patients at all hours of the day or night, regardless of their own circumstances.

There are no words to fully express my thanks to everyone in the Welsh Ambulance Service.

A W Bastick,
Rhoose.

Thanks from Mary for her splendid 90th birthday!

I WOULD like to send a heartfelt thank you to all who gave me such a splendid 90th birthday, both family and friends of more than 30 years.

Not only did I receive flowers, gifts and dinners, I also had a trip to Scotland and 26 birthday cards, which I can now enjoy.

God bless everyone.

Mary Fitz,
Vale of Glamorgan.

Widening road is not the answer

AS a resident of Dinas Powys, I read your report on the road problems around the village (The GEM, July 6) with interest, until I came to Peter Woodford's proposals to widen Pen-y-Turnpike.

He cannot be serious. Does he not realise that several housing developments, together with a number of mature houses, closely abut the road edge?

Maybe he is proposing that they all be demolished, or if retained, would he be content with all the resultant pinch-points?

Furthermore, Mr Woodford, to open a back entrance to Llandough Hospital would increase the volume of traffic through the village when we are all trying to decrease it.

Charles Rees,
Dinas Powys.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL JULY 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
13 Thur	09.51	9.2	22.10	9.2
14 Fri	10.27	9.1	22.50	9.0
15 Sat	11.09	8.9	23.35	8.8
16 Sun	11.56	8.6		
17 Mon	00.27	8.5	12.54	8.5
18 Tues	01.29	8.3	13.59	8.3
19 Wed	02.41	8.3	15.15	8.5
20 Thur	03.53	8.7	16.28	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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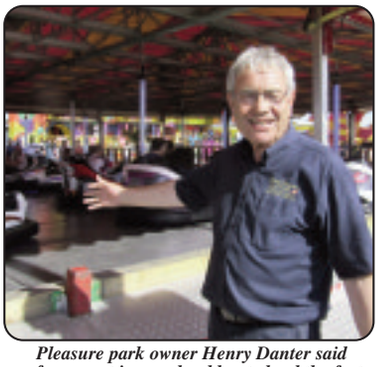
Pleasure park owner hopes for 'positive' meeting with council



Pleasure park owner Henry Danter said enforcement issues should not cloud the fact that there had been huge improvements to the park in the last two years.

Mr Danter and the council are due to meet over the issue of removing an extension to his arcade.

There were large crowds at the Pleasure Park on July 8.

BARRY ISLAND Pleasure Park owner Henry Danter is due to meet the Vale Council today, Thursday, July 13, to discuss an enforcement notice on an extension to his arcade.

The council's planning committee recently gave officers the green light for the extension to Treasure Island and Funfair Arcade on Paget Road to be removed.

Mr Danter says he hopes that with goodwill on both sides there can be a positive outcome.

He has also had to deal with prohibition notices served on two attractions – issues he says have now been resolved.

A spokeswoman for the Health and Safety Executive, a national body operating across Great Britain, told The GEM: "HSE served prohibition notices on the Jungle River – known as the log flume ride – and the supercar dodgems owned and operated by Mr Henry Danter and Blasemere Ltd (the pleasure park operator).

"The notices were served as Mr Danter had failed to suitably remedy defects with the rides which were identified by an inspection body registered with the Amusement Device Inspection Procedure Scheme (ADIPS)."

The defects had prevented rides being issued with annual certification.

The spokeswoman added that enforcement action had also been taken in relation to electrical safety issues within the Treasure Island arcade and the wider park, adding that "the contraventions of electrical safety are subject to three improvement notices".

Mr Danter told The GEM on Tuesday this week that the prohibition orders had now been lifted and certification on electrical work had been given to the health and safety officer.

He said he was frustrated that enforcement issues were over-shadowing the huge strides made at the park, and pointed out that the derelict, council-owned toilet block near Nell's Point car park didn't seem to be getting the same scrutiny as his business.

"I'm hoping that the meeting on Thursday will be approached in a friendly manner and that we can resolve our differences.

"On Saturday (July 8) we probably had around 15,000 people through the park, it was packed – takings were double those of last year, and other businesses on the Island have benefitted.

"We haven't had a penny of support from the council. They should be saying 'well done, it's good for Wales'. I want to work with them.

"My family and staff have achieved so much in such a short time and deserve some praise."

He said that huge strides had been made in clearing up the site and he was still on target with his £20m investment which is taking place over five years.

Mr Danter said he would welcome politicians or council officials visiting the park so they could see what had been achieved.

Coun Jonathan Bird, the Vale cabinet member for regeneration and planning, said the council was concerned about whether changes at the park met planning requirements, but confirmed it was keen to work with Mr Danter to resolve issues.

"The Vale Council has supported Mr Danter in his efforts to develop the park but remains concerned about the failure of new development in the park to comply with the relevant building and planning regulations.

"This concern is rooted in the implications that these failures have for the health and safety of visitors to the park.

"The Barry Island resort has been transformed in recent years and we will not allow unsafe attractions to jeopardise its continued revival.

"The council remains very keen to work with Mr Danter to resolve this issue, as we have been since concerns were first raised, and is hopeful that an amicable solution can be found without any need for formal action."

'COUNCIL SHOULD SIT DOWN WITH MR DANTER ON PLANNING DISPUTE'

MY wife and I spend a great deal of our time walking between the Knap and Barry Island, enjoying the views and atmosphere.

It is fair to say, over the last five to 10 years the Island has changed for the better, due initially to the popularity of *Gavin and Stacey*; the tenacious efforts of the local traders; and lately, Henry Danter's resolute efforts.

I am sure all local people will agree the Island has become a 12-month attraction instead of what was a three-month season dependant on the weather.

To be fair, the local authority has grasped the nettle and carried out very expensive projects i.e. the east promenade project and Island approach road project.

While both schemes are visually impressive, whether they are value for money is anyone's guess, but it's difficult to get it right all of the time.

The east promenade development has improved access for pedestrians; the toilet facilities are welcome and are maintained to a very high standard thanks to the efforts of the council staff.

They also devote their time to keeping the whole of the area clean and tidy. It is also good to see the beach huts gaining popularity at last.

On the down side, the work seemed to take forever, and despite re-work, the non-slip surfaces on the paths and on top of the east shelter, do not seem to be fit for purpose.

The Island approach road, for pedestrians, is a big improvement; however, for cyclists and motorists it's a different story; families and younger cyclists, having just abandoned their stabilisers, have great fun weaving in and out of the pedestrians, until they come to the narrow section, where they have to dismount and walk, or ride, down into the car park, hopefully avoiding the traffic.

They then have to carry their bikes up the steps, on the other side of the car park, to continue their journey onto the Island.

Real (lycra clad) cyclists, using what is now a much narrower road, seem to have great fun weaving in and out of the traffic.

When the new pavement/cycle path is properly marked out, I am sure pedestrians will feel safer; however, I don't think 'real' cyclists will be persuaded to use it.

It's a shame the Vale planners and engineers didn't remove the defunct pavement on the railway side of the road bridge, thereby maintaining road width, allowing them to take the cycle path all the way onto the Island.

It would be nice to include the traffic lights on the second access road as part of the improvements, but find it hard to understand how something so simple, could be made such a mess of, and has yet to be finished.

I now read that the Vale Council planning committee is considering an enforcement action on Henry Danter for the work he has carried out to extend the amusement arcade entrance.

I would have thought the local authority should be grateful to him, for spending his own money, improving what was an eyesore.

Come on, Vale Council – it must be in your own interests to bring an amicable conclusion to this storm in a tea cup. Sit down with Mr Danter to sort this out; he deserves your unequivocal support.

(Name and address supplied)

Will you make Penarth a 'dementia-friendly' community?

DEMENTIA Friendly Communities is a programme which 'facilitates the creation of dementia-friendly communities across the UK'.

"Everyone," began a spokesperson, "shares the responsibility for ensuring that people with dementia feel understood, valued and able to contribute to their community.

"If you would like to learn more about making Penarth a dementia-friendly community, an introductory meeting takes place on Thursday, August 3 at 3pm and 5.30pm in Meeting Room 3, Trinity Church, Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF64 2EX."

For further details, contact Phil Batchelor by email to philip.batchelor @homeinstead.co.uk.

No fun if fair fails

IN The GEM of June 29, and re Henry Danter's arcade, it seems to me and others that the Vale Council wants the funfair to fail.

Mr Danter has brought the Island back to life ensuring that more visitors come and bring much needed business to Barry and surrounding areas.

As to the shutters, unfortunately most of the shops have them, as do the shops opposite the corner of the fairground in question. I agree they are only down when everything is closed, like any other business which has them.

It seems to me (I don't think I'm alone in this) that the Vale council has double standards and the two pictures speak for themselves. So wakey! wakey! councillors, promote Barry and not kill it.

L Donovan, Barry.

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Library staff are out and about

STAFF at Barry Library have been out and about recently, taking part in some of the events at Barry Island.

Barry Library took part in the recent Transport Festival on Barry Island.

A craft table was set up and the children made cars and aeroplanes out of clothes pegs.

There was also an exhibition of pictures from the 'Picture the Vale' collection that is managed by Vale Libraries.

Library staff were back on the Island recently to take part in Eats, Beats and Treats. Children had great fun decorating biscuits and making bunny ears (of course).

The staff also promoted the annual summer reading challenge that takes place in all Vale libraries from July 15 to September 9. It is open to all children under the age of 12. All they have to do is read six library books to complete the challenge and win a medal. **AS**

For more information, contact your local library www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/libraries

Looking back at a year in Scouting

AS another Scouting term for 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout group comes to an end, the group can look back on good deeds performed, skills learned and fun they have had along the way.

It's always fun in the Scouts.

Beavers have been learning about keeping fit and healthy eating, and have been looking at road safety and dangers they may face. They have had fun with non stop cricket and obstacle races and a night at Barry Island.

Cubs have been looking at the Cub Promise and Law, and deciding what good deeds they have done at home and at school. They have learned some first aid thanks to Becky Pitt, so they know what to do to call the emergency services, how to deal with basic bleeding and put someone in the recovery position.

They have also had a evening with the Vale sports disability team and have been to Cardiff Airport's fire station. Some Cubs are also joining other Cubs from the district at the Boat Base on July 16.

Scouts have camped at Amelia Trust Farm after helping with car parking at its summer fair. They looked at fire lighting with natural tinders. Back at the hut they have looked at stove and lamp safety.

The have also visited Amelia Trust Farm to help tidy up its 'prayer labyrinth'. This is a continuing project that all sections will be able to get involved with.

Explorers helped with archery at Ishtar under the stars at Fonmon Castle.

All sections were represented at the Great Rhoose Get Together on June 18 where there were displays of paracord bracelet making, cooking *calzones*, using Kelly kettles, sponges and stocks, which helped to keep the children cool, and pioneering with a swing being erected.

Over the summer the group will be planning its 40th anniversary celebrations to be held at Fontygary Leisure Park with the lighting of the beacon in September.

If you would like to get involved with 1st Penmark with Porthkerry Scout group then please get in touch with the group Scout leader on gsl@penmarkscouts.org.uk. Whether you can help all the time or just occasionally the group would like to hear from you.

Calling all young gardeners

A SUMMER 'village fete' is coming to the High Street Shopping Quarter in Barry on Saturday, August 12, and to celebrate, Beautiful Lily Florist will be running a flower arrangement competition.

The competition is open for those aged four to 12.

All entries will be judged and displayed on the day of the fair as part of a floral display tent.

For more details, pop in to Beautiful Lily on High Street.

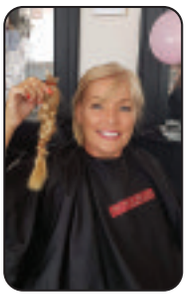
Lots more is planned on the day, including a dog show, workshops, old school games like hula-hoop and the egg and spoon race, local choirs and demo-tents for local businesses.

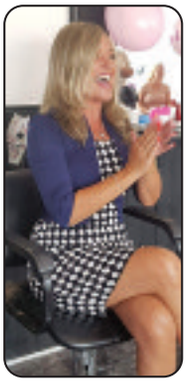
Free legal advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a free legal advice session on Tuesday, July 18 from 10am to 12pm at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed. If you are over 50 and are worried about a legal matter other than criminal law, come along and chat to a legal team. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Lorraine shaves her head to support charity





Lorraine, with daughter Sarah and niece Jess, after she braved the shave.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Yet Lorraine, who works for Robertsons Solicitors in Barry and is full of praise for the company's support – and for that of Llandough and Velindre hospitals – is clearly a fighter and a very positive person.

Lorraine has not only donated her hair, but also her time and energy by organising fundraising for her chosen charity, the Little Princess Trust

In the run-up to the day when she would 'brave the shave', she raised more than £200 for the Little Princess Trust, which has now risen to more than £875.

"And £50 of that was because Anne-Marie French, the new proprietor of Ri Style, organised a raffle on the day," said Lorraine.

As for the future, Lorraine said: "Let's take the 'c' out of 'cancer', then we have the 'ancer', and then take the 'c' to find the cure."

She paused, and with a sparkle in her eyes, said: "I will beat this because I believe I will."

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Church's fair was a success

ST CADOC'S Church in the Rectorial Benefice of Barry recently held its summer fair.

It was a very well attended event which was blessed with the only spell of dry weather all day!

Barry Brass Band provided the entertainment and £1,800 was raised for church funds.

Spokesperson Rowena Hughes said: "We were so lucky with the weather, it was lovely to see so many families attending and having fun. Many thanks to everyone for the support."

The church's next event is Teddy Bear Zip Wire on Saturday, July 22 from 2.30pm.

Rowena said: "Do you have a bear that is brave enough? Come along, a full medical team will be in attendance!

"There will also be a barbecue, tuck shop and Name the Bear competition.

"We are raising money to build a toilet which is desperately needed! Please come along and support this fun event."

GlastonBARRY festival is coming - are you ready!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ross continued: "There will be over 1,500 people a day more than last year, 4,000 people a day in total.

"To completely sell it out with three weeks to go is remarkable."

Ross said that one reason for the festival's success was the price structure – £25 for the whole weekend and the chance to see 14 bands – that they had employed.

"We pride ourselves on being the most reasonably-priced tribute festival. That's why we have people travelling to GlastonBARRY from all over Europe and the UK.

"We have visitors travelling from Spain, France and at least two visitors travelling over from Holland who put on a big tribute festival over there.

"They want to check out how we do things and look at some of the bands so it will be great to meet them.

"Matt and I will look to return the favour and travel over to Holland to check out their festival.

"We have some of the UK's best tribute bands playing this year, and also headline theatre acts, including the headline act on Sunday night 'Purple Rain: a Celebration of Prince'.

"We also have tributes to Stevie Wonder, Oasis, Bowie, ACDC, UB40, and many more.

"A huge thanks goes to our sponsors CJCH Solicitors, Sterling MC Commercial Finance and Barry Training Services for their support."

One of the top tributes at GlastonBARRY is 'Absolute Bowie'.

Local impresarios Ross Mackintosh and Matt Blumberg.

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BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

Minor Authority Representative Vacancies

Barry Town Council would like to invite interested parties to apply to represent the Council as Minor Authority Representative on the following Schools:-

Gladstone Primary
Holton Primary

The role of Minor Authority Representatives is a voluntary, four year position and the successful candidate would be expected to attend regular meetings and report back to the Council on those meetings.

For further information or if you are interested in applying please contact Mrs Angie Norman, Deputy Town Clerk on 01446 704923 or **email: angienorman@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.**

The deadline for applications is Friday, 4 August 2017.

Angie Norman , Deputy Town Clerk
Barry Town Council , 7 Gladstone Road
Barry, CF62 8NA

CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

Lleoedd Gwag ar gyfer Cynrychiolwyr Awdurdodau Llai

Hoffai Cyngor Tref Y Barri wahodd unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb i wneud cais i gynrychioli'r Cyngor yn Gynrychiolydd Awdurdodau Llai ar yr Ysgolion canlynol:-

Ysgol Gynradd Gladstone
Ysgol Gynradd Holton

Mae rôl Cynrychiolwyr Awdurdodau Llai yn swydd wirfoddol am bedair blynedd a byddai disgwyl i'r ymgeisydd llwyddiannus fynychu cyfarfodydd rheolaidd ac adrodd yn ôl i'r Cyngor ar y cyfarfodydd hynny.

Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth neu os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn cynnig cysylltwch â Mrs Angie Norman, Dirprwy Glerc y Dref ar 01446 704923 neu **e-bost: angienorman@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.**

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer gwneud cais yw dydd Gwener, 4 Awst 2017.

Angie Norman , Dirprwy Glerc y Dref
Cyngor Tref Y Barri , 7 Heol Gladstone,
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AS SEEN ON TV

Rhoose Library open day

Anthony Lavisher (third from left) next to Alun Cairns MP and library volunteers.

AM Andrew RT Davies with Jeff James and fellow volunteers Sheila and Mai.

RHOOSE Community Library opened its doors to crowds of budding authors and bookworms this weekend, who gathered to meet St Athan author Anthony Lavisher.

Mr Lavisher gave a reading from each of his three books which form a Celtic-themed trilogy.

The library has been run by local volunteers since it was transferred to a community group earlier this year, thus allowing the village to keep the service.

South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies visited the open day, and congratulated all the volunteers who made it possible.

They were all presented with certificates for their work, with Mr Davies saying it was important their vital contribution was recognised.

Mr Davies said, "It was a pleasure to visit the open day at Rhoose Community Library, and meet with the volunteers whose hard work has allowed the village to keep the provision.

"The cake stall showed there are also some excellent bakers among them – and Sheila Williams' chocolate eclairs were top class!

"I'd like to thank all the volunteers who putting on an excellent event, and it was great to see community spirit is alive and well in Rhoose."

Vale AM Jane Hutt also attended, as did Alun Cairns MP.

Ms Hutt said: "This was an excellent event for all the family, with information about services as well as crafts, homemade cakes, a raffle and a tombola. Well done all."

Mr Cairns added: "Credit must be given to the dedicated volunteers who have given so much time and effort to provide this service in Rhoose. It was clear to see on Saturday how widely enjoyed it truly is."

A spokesperson for the library said: "We were very fortunate to have so many people attend."

Volunteers at Rhoose Community Library and Jane Hutt AM (left).

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

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MBE presented to Cold Knap's unique landlocked lifeguards

Kate Thomas, Les Lewis, Mavis Ward and Alun Cairns MP.

THE volunteers of the Rhondda (Cold Knap) Lifeguards are celebrating after being presented with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), the MBE for volunteer groups.

Presenting the award on behalf of The Queen was the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Kate Thomas and also in attendance was the Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, who nominated the Lifeguard Club for this prestigious award.

Receiving the award were club president and founder member, Les Lewis and chair, Mavis Ward. Also in attendance from Mid Glamorgan, was the Vice Lord Lieutenant Roy Noble, Garry Meredith and Mary Squire.

The Rhondda Lifeguard Club is fairly unique in the UK, because it was formed in the land-locked Rhondda Valleys, some 20 miles from the sea.

They have been in existence for 55 years, 50 of those at the Knap and during that time they have rescued 111 people.

On July 6 on a sunny evening at the Knap, members of all ages from the Club gathered for the presentation.

OAK FIELD FUN DAY WAS JUST THAT!

EVERYBODY "came on down to Gibbonsdown" on Saturday to experience all the fun of the fair.

Parents, staff, pupils and friends of the Oak Field Primary School gathered to enjoy the fantastic sunshine, which of course was organised, alongside the fantastic stalls, games and megaslide for the Oak Field Primary School Family Fun Day.

Children had their faces painted, wore glitter tattoos as well as trying to beat the goalie and hook a duck.

Various members of the community hired tables to sell their wares and burgers, chips, hot dogs and slushies kept the children occupied while parents and carers gathered to enjoy this wonderful event.

Children paid to buy a voucher to 'slime' their favourite teacher which resulted in Jeff being covered in a combination of flour, glitter and slime

Many thanks to Bro Radio for commentating throughout the afternoon and playing some fantastic music. A huge thank you to everyone who supported us and the very hard work of Nicole and the Oak Field PTA.

ND

Dinas Powys open gardens day was 'a great success'

THE Dinas Powys open gardens event held last weekend for the charity the National Garden Scheme (NGS) was a 'great success', according to a spokesperson.

There were more than 400 visitors to the six lovely gardens and sold gallons of tea, tons of cake and a whole jungle's worth of plants.

The visitors gave lots of positive feedback and the group of green spaces was thoroughly enjoyed.

In total, some £4,000 was raised, and 80 per cent of this will be donated to the NGS, which gives millions of pounds each year to charities such as Marie Curie and Macmillan Nursing.

Of the total sum raised, 20 per cent will go to Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, which provides support to the elderly in the village.

Thanks to all of the lovely, enthusiastic visitors and the generous local businesses who donated raffle prizes.

Well done to the dedicated garden owners who generously opened up their private gardens.

We will see you all next year.!

If you are interested in opening your garden for the National Garden Scheme, get in touch with Sara on 02920512709.

SB

PARTY IN THE PARK

TICKETS are now selling out fast for this year's Party in the Park, but they can still be bought on Saturday when Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club have their sessions (between 3pm-5pm through July until the club takes a break in August).

If you still want tickets get them quick, before they're gone! The club will host the event at Porthkerry Park on August 6.

CRC make funding available

CREATIVE Rural Communities, the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative wants readers to know that despite the UK exiting the EU, it is 'business as usual' for them.

Phil Chappell, team leader economic development, said: "Over £500,000 has yet to be allocated from our LEADER funding programme, with three years left to run on the current programme.

"We want to hear from residents, farmers and other businesses about any ideas they might have that will benefit the economy and communities of the rural Vale.

"Our board made up of voluntary, community and private sector members is keen for us to get out and about to generate some new ideas".

The council has also established a new economic development unit in Barry to develop bottom up approaches to regeneration and support businesses.

Coun Jonathan Bird, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, said: "I am pleased that the new team is bringing together partners to work jointly on projects working in a bottom up way. They are supporting groups to access funding and working with companies looking to invest in the Vale.

"At a regional level we are working with Business Wales to see how we can add value to their work. The timing could not be better as we move into the early stages of implementing the Cardiff Capital Region City deal."

For more information please contact *create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk* or call 01446 704754.

The LEADER programme received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Welsh Government and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

'Enhanced' CCTV introduced in the Vale area

CCTV monitoring in the Vale will increase as part of an 'enhanced service' agreed by the Vale Council last week.

Since April 2016, monitoring of CCTV cameras across the both the Vale and Bridgend has been undertaken by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), as part of a partnership agreement.

There are 77 cameras across the Vale, each of which records for a full 24 hours each day. The cameras can be controlled remotely and are monitored by staff at the Bridgend control centre 365 days a year.

The Vale Council has now decided to increase the number of hours in which the cameras covering Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major are actively monitored and put in place new maintenance arrangements to ensure any faults to key cameras are repaired immediately.

Coun Andrew Parker, cabinet member for housing and building services, said: "The Vale's town centres sit at the heart of our communities and we want to make sure all residents and visitors feel safe when visiting them.

"CCTV is one of the key tools we have at our disposal to achieve this and the enhanced monitoring arrangements agreed by cabinet will ensure that we are using the technology as effectively as possible.

"Monthly performance reports will be reviewed by our community safety team so that we can be certain the correct areas are being targeted."

Changes to monitoring arrangements take place immediately.

Mayor's coffee morning will help 'Baby Basics'

From left, front: health visitor Pauline Crooke; the Mayor, Coun Janice Charles, Pauline Byrne, midwife Diane Pemberton.
Back row: Pastor Mike Holmes, Coastlands Family Church; Baby Basics volunteers Sarah Davies; and Mary Smart, Amber Condy.

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun Janice Charles, has announced that she will be holding regular charity coffee mornings.

Baby Basics is the first of the Mayor's charities to hold a coffee morning, and it will take place in the Arts Central Gallery, the Town Hall, Barry, on Thursday, August 17 from 10am to 12pm.

Run by Coastlands Family Church, Barry, Baby Basics works with midwives, health visitors, social workers and other professional bodies to provide starter packs for new parents.

A spokesperson said: "The Moses baskets are packed with toiletries, nappies, towels and baby clothes. For some these are the only items they will have for their child."

So far, 29 baskets have been distributed this year.

The Mayor was delighted to welcome Baby Basics co-ordinator Pauline Byrne with fellow Coastlands volunteers and Vale Council Flying Start staff, to the Mayor's Parlour and is looking forward to working with them throughout her Mayoral year.

For more information on Baby Basics email Pauline Byrne at valebabybasics@yahoo.com.

BUSINESSES ARE URGED TO MONITOR ENERGY USAGE

BUSINESSES in the Vale are being encouraged to take advantage of smart technologies to gain greater control of their energy use.

Smart meters can, say industry insiders, be helpful for smaller businesses by giving a greater insight into their energy use. The detailed information provides a breakdown of consumption, enabling businesses to better manage their day-to-day usage.

At an Energy Innovation Showcase event in the Senedd, South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies made an appeal for more businesses in the Vale to take up the scheme.

Mr Davies said: "Businesses play a vital role in the local economy in the Vale – and they should be given all the help they can to run more efficiently.

"I have seen first-hand how technology can help businesses manage energy better and save money on bills – so I'd urge them to find out more about smart meters and other innovative technologies available."

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

HIGH STREETS: use them or lose them

Vale MP Alun Cairns
Secretary of State for Wales
reports to GEM readers

A SIGN of a thriving town is a thriving high street.

We are fortunate to have outstanding high streets dotted all across the Vale of Glamorgan, with a splendrous array of independent shops and businesses that cannot be found anywhere else.

We all greatly appreciate the area's high streets, and I am yet to meet a fellow resident of the Vale who does not agree that they are the beating heart of our local economy. We, as a community, must therefore act as a matter of priority, to protect them.

Last week I visited Llantwit Major high street ahead of the Chamber of Commerce's 'Shop Local' campaign launch which will take place this August.

Speaking to business owners in the town, I was deeply impressed to learn of the endless hours that they put into running their shops to serve the residents and visitors of Llantwit Major.

It must never be underestimated the pressure and risk that comes with being self-employed: there is never a guaranteed pay-cheque at the end of the month, yet the bills always have to be paid.

Barry's high street shopping quarter retailers are long-standing activists when it comes to the 'Shop Local' campaign. Year after year they organise a fantastic Small Business Saturday on the busiest shopping day of the year just before Christmas, and this August they, along with Llantwit Major, will be re-launching their campaign to urge shoppers to explore the retailers on their doorstep.

Many residents of the Vale work in Cardiff, and while shopping at the capital city's big name superstores may seem slightly more convenient, they can never replicate the personality, care and concern that goes into operating as an independent high street shop or business.

By shopping at your local high street, you are keeping that high street alive. You are not paying into a multinational company's bottomless bank account.

Instead you are paying towards a child's school uniform, or a family's food bill for that week.

As your MP, I ask that you join me in making a pledge to support the Vale's local businesses. Even if it is a visit to one local business this week, and another the next week, every penny spent in an independent shop is another penny going back into our local economy.

From Dinas Powys to Ogmore-By-Sea, there is a wealth of fantastic, unique, independent businesses who can only continue to serve us for as long as we support them. ***Let's use them, before we lose them.***

Vale's marginal status illustrates why main parties have different view of general election

by TIM CHAPMAN (07891 690798) or email tim.chapman@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

POLITICS, as we have seen over the last few weeks, is a fiendishly unpredictable business.

Three months ago, Prime Minister Theresa May was riding high in the polls, and when, on April 18, she called an election most commentators thought she would cruise serenely into Downing Street with an increased majority.

But a hapless campaign, and the resurgence of the Labour Party, which led to a Conservative parliamentary deal with the Democratic Unionist Party, have put her leadership on a knife-edge.

The Conservatives lost 12 seats, and some safe Tory seats became marginals, including the Vale.

The Labour Party are desperate for another general election, and the precarious nature of parliamentary pacts means an election in the autumn is not inconceivable.

There was a school of thought which argued that a general election collapse in support for UKIP would lead to its voters migrating en masse to the Conservatives, keen to see a clean Brexit.

The GEM approached former UKIP candidate for the Vale in the 2015 general election, Coun Kevin Mahoney for his view on the state of play in the Vale in the national context.

He left UKIP in early 2016 because he was opposed to candidates being imposed from outside Wales in the Welsh Assembly elections, candidates he believed were not versed in local issues and of high enough calibre.

Coun Mahoney said the idea that UKIP voters would fall in line behind the Tories at the general election was a "flawed analysis".

He polled 5,489 votes in the 2015 general election. He did not stand this time around, and UKIP's vote decreased by 4,621 votes in this year's general election to just 868 votes.

He explained: "The Conservatives have been lacking in intelligent analysis. They thought that the UKIP vote was disaffected Tories, but once it started going up through the five per cent mark, I knew we were getting working class Labour voters.

"These people were never going to vote Tory, and if they left UKIP, they were going to return to Labour."

Coun Mahoney said that when he'd campaigned in working class estates in the Vale, and elsewhere in Wales, people had been more than welcoming.

He said: "These were areas where the Conservatives wouldn't show their face."

The Vale's MP Alun Cairns actually increased his vote in June by 1,894 votes to 25,501 votes; but Labour's Camilla Beaven was snapping at his heels with an increase of 6,584 votes to a total of 23,311 votes. Other parties such as Plaid, the Greens and Liberal Democrats also haemorrhaged votes, but not on the scale of UKIP.

Coun Mahoney said that it looks like there has been a return to two-party politics for the time being.

He added: "The Vale has always been very volatile in its voting. At one time, Labour's John Smith had a good parliamentary majority (10,532 in 1997). In the European elections, UKIP topped the poll beating the Conservatives and Labour."

And in 2015, Mr Cairns' majority stood at a reasonably comfortable 6,880 votes.

Coun Mahoney said that if there was an autumn general election, it was difficult to say who would win because so much could happen between now and then, but pointed out that a mere "1,500 votes one way or another" could be critical in deciding the outcome.

With such fine margins in the Vale and elsewhere, it's no wonder the Conservatives want to establish a reliable pact with the DUP, and no surprise that Labour are keen to have a second general election in the space of a few months.

A thriving cemetery at the heart of the community

AT the inaugural 'One Voice Wales Innovative Practice' awards held on July 5, Barry Town Council was 'delighted' to receive an award for the Local Council Service of the Year, honouring Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery for being 'a thriving cemetery at the heart of the community'.

Chief officer Emily Forbes nominated Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery for, said a spokesperson, "being honoured and respected by members of the community as a final resting place for their loved ones, and to recognise and value the commitment of the cemetery team".

Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery has previously received Green Flag status which is a benchmark for parks and green spaces in the UK recognising 'exceptional places with highest standards'.

Family fun at Colcot church

'FIREFLIES', a partnership between Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS), Vale Council Environment and Housing, and a number of housing associations including Hafod, Newydd, Gwalia and Wales and West is pleased to announce a 'fun and advice day' at Coastlands Family Church in Colcot, Barry on July 19.

The day begins at 10am and continues until 2pm. You will find information on healthy eating, how to get more active, money and benefit advice, volunteering opportunities and you can speak to job coaches and much more.

Everyone is welcome for refreshments, free entry and the opportunity to enter a prize draw.

For further details contact GVS on 01446 741706, email: enquiries@gvs.wales, website: www.gvs.wales.

Government aid gives Sully company a chance to grow

A WEBSITE design company has been able to expand its marketing and copywriting offering thanks to Welsh Government employment initiative, Jobs Growth Wales.

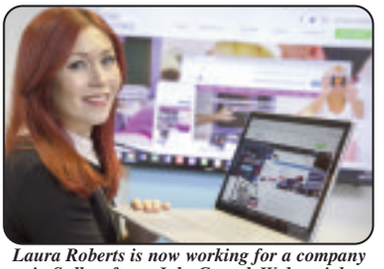
Designer Websites Ltd, based in Sully, has taken on eight Jobs Growth Wales employees over the past five years; and has grown its online marketing team.

Jobs Growth Wales allows employers to offer a part-funded six-month job opportunity to young people and create new roles within their organisation. The programme is part-funded by the European Social Fund.

Recruits are paid a wage and benefit from gaining work experience and furthering their on-the-job skills, while also supporting Welsh businesses to grow.

Jason Fortt, managing director, said: "The beauty of the programme is that we can give job opportunities to young talented individuals, who we may have otherwise not considered, and with little or no risk to the business we can use the part-funded period to fully train them.

"In our industry, things move fast, marketing techniques that we may have employed two years ago are now redundant, and more often than not, many of the techniques youngsters learn at university are out of date before they hit the commercial environment."



Laura Roberts is now working for a company in Sully, after a Jobs Growth Wales trial.

Laura Roberts from Tonypandy in Rhondda says she wouldn't be where she is today without the programme.

The 23-year-old Laura said: "I had done previous work experience placements before but found it difficult to get my foot in the door in the industry.

"There are lots of internships in the creative industry but a great many of them are based in London and I knew I wanted to stay here in Wales.

"When I was looking for my first job after university, my boyfriend saw all the opportunities available and applied for one with Ash Wales, a stop smoking charity, and has been kept on as well."

Minister for Skills and Science Julie James said: "The Welsh Government is committed to delivering more and better jobs for Wales, through a stronger and fairer economy and Jobs Growth Wales enables businesses like Designer Websites to grow, which is good news for the wider Welsh economy."

To access Jobs Growth Wales, 16 and 17-year-olds need to go to Careers Wales while those aged 18-24 should contact Jobcentre Plus.

For more information on Jobs Growth Wales and the latest vacancies, visit www.careerswales.com. Employers can find out more by visiting businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway.

LOCAL MENTOR 'CROSSES THE MYTHICAL LEARNING BRIDGE'

A WELSH learner, the author of a book entitled *A Welsh Dawn,* has been nominated for an award at the Vale Adult Learner Ceremony.

Gareth Thomas, who started learning Welsh aged 50 while living in England, published a novel which is in English but features Welsh.

For the past three years Gareth has met fortnightly with fellow Welsh learner, Stewart Ward, as part of a mentoring scheme organised by Learn Welsh The Vale, which matches fluent Welsh speakers with learners on lower levels.

Gareth Thomas, one of the mentors.

The pair meet in the Waitrose café in Barry where they chat in Welsh about everyday subjects.

They also occasionally exchange emails, especially over the holidays when they cannot meet.

Gareth was nominated by Suzanne Condon, a tutor at Learn Welsh The Vale.

Suzanne explained: "Learning a language is like learning a musical instrument – the more you practise, the easier it gets. Having opportunities to use Welsh outside the classroom is so important, and I can see the difference Gareth's time has made to Stewart's progress."

Gareth, who also gives talks to Welsh classes about his interest in Iolo Morganwg, added: "When it comes to mentoring fellow Welsh learners, the trick is to keep to the language – cadw at yr iaith – and not switch back to English. This ensures the relationship develops in Welsh."

Learn Welsh The Vale is always looking for new mentors to support its Welsh learners.

Suzanne says: "With mentoring, we're not looking for people with teaching experience. It's important not to teach but to chat about all sorts of everyday subjects.

"Mentors and their mentees can meet regularly for several weeks, months, or for longer periods.

"One of our Cardiff mentors, Eirlys Davies, has been mentoring Ann Simons from Barry for several years. The pair are now firm friends and enjoy attending Welsh language events and activities together.

"The mentoring scheme is a great way for people to share their skills. It's important to share dialects and local sayings, so that Welsh becomes a language of the community and not just the classroom.

"It's wonderful when experienced learners such as Gareth, who've crossed the 'mythical learning bridge', reach back to help others."

If you would like to share your Welsh, or learn, contact Learn Welsh The Vale on 01446 730402.

Readers who would like a copy of the new Welsh prospectus should visit a local library or learning centre.

Do you run a health or social-care group?

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) organises the Vale Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Network, bringing together voluntary and community organisations serving the Vale.

It meets several times a year and shares information about health and social care services. This can include updates on new services, information about services provided by the Vale Council, changes to services, and a whole range of other updates.

Anyone connected with a voluntary or community group can attend the Network. We've had presentations from Promo Cymru, Atal y Fro, Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, Shine and the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

It's a great way of sharing information, keeping up to date and meeting new people from other organisations.

The next network meeting is at 10am on Thursday, July 13 in Unit 1 at Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, CF62 9DA.

If you are involved in a voluntary or community group in the Vale, why not come along? For further details, call 01446 741706; email: enquiries@gvs.wales or visit website: www.gvs.wales.

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Local Hearing Care for Local People

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Hood Road, Barry, CF62 5QN
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'BRIDGE OF FLOWERS' FOR FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL

The Barry Hookers team.

The Barry Hookers on their 'Bridge of Flowers' display.

THE Barry Hookers descended on the Knap gardens to create a beautiful 'Bridge of Flowers' in preparation ready for the 'Friendship Tree Festival' at the Knap Lake and Gardens on Sunday, July 23.

Festival organiser Glyn Pooley said: "This beautiful hand-made artwork is a real joy.

"The theme of the festival is 'Peace and Friendship', and our aim is to create a gentle event, with a friendly atmosphere.

"We welcome all members of the public to come and enjoy this free day of music, art, dance, peace and friendship in a beautiful natural setting. Bring a picnic and a blanket and help us keep the sun shining!"

The event will take place at the Knap lake and gardens from 11.30am on July 23, and entry is free.

For more information on Art4u and the Friendship Tree Festival, visit www.art4uwales.org.uk. Donations to Art4U Wales will be warmly received.

Hot weather 'can kill animals' warns the RSPCA

AS summer continues, RSPCA Cymru is bracing itself for a busy July; in June the charity received 133 calls involving animals left in hot and stifling conditions.

It means it is getting a call on this one issue every five and a half hours.

In England and Wales, 2,065 calls were received relating to animals suffering from the heat with the majority being dogs left in cars, caravans or vans on hot days.

Members of the public are urged to call 999 rather than the RSPCA if they see a dog in distress in a hot car.

The police will then inform the RSPCA if animal welfare assistance is required.

RSPCA superintendent Martyn Hubbard said: "Put simply, there are fatal dangers of leaving animals in unsuitable environments, like dogs in warm cars.

"Temperatures can soar quickly in a car, caravan, conservatory or outbuilding. "If it's 22°Celsius outside, within an hour the temperature can reach 47°Celsius inside, which can have disastrous consequences for animals.

"Call handlers received 133 calls in June alone about animals left in hot environments in Wales, and a peak of reports of animals struggling over July seems very possible.

"We're urging the public to continue helping us spread the message as to the dangers of people treating animals in this way. Where people see a dog in distress in a warm car, they should dial 999."

More information on the dangers of leaving a dog in a warm car, and how the public can help stop this happening, is available at www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/dogs/health/dogsinhotcars.

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Harvey and Maxwell don't make a racket.

Doggy double hoping for 'perfect match'

AS Wimbledon draws to a close, Dogs Trust Bridgend is seeking a home for a 'doggy double' who are looking for their 'love match' this summer.

A spokesperson wrote: "Springer Spaniel duo Maxwell and Harvey are both 12 years old and are looking for a home together where a loving new owner can serve up lots of fuss, cuddles and most importantly, love.

"The pair are older, so aren't as spritely as the Wimbledon competitors but in typical Spaniel fashion, love chasing after a ball.

"But they are looking for a quiet life away from the crowds, and love fuss and attention from human fans."

Angela Wetherall, Dogs Trust Bridgend Rehoming Centre manager said: "Brothers Maxwell and Harvey are a devoted doggy duo and work really well as a team! They are the best of friends and would love the chance to win the heart of a new owner.

"Taking on a doggy duo can be extremely rewarding–while it's double the responsibility, you'll also find that it's double the love."

Both dogs are housetrained so could be left for short periods of time. They are looking for a quiet home and could live with children older than eight years old.

Contact Dogs Trust Bridgend on 0300 303 0292 for more information.

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Open day in Rhoose

CELTIC Way Community Centre, Rhoose, is holding a fun open day on Sunday, July 23 from 10am-4pm.

There will be a display by the community police featuring police dogs, horses and a special car. There will also be a bouncy castle and slide children's activities, art display and a visit from the airport fire service.

Everyone welcome.

Marie Curie Hospice hosts afternoon tea

PATIENTS at a Penarth hospice were joined by their families and staff for a weekend tea party.

Staff at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice held the Blooming Great Tea Party on July 2, as part of the charity's summer fundraising campaign.

A spokesperson wrote: "Kitchen staff whipped up all sorts of tasty treats for patients and family members to enjoy with patients."

Staff from teams across the hospice volunteered to provide the guests with cups of tea and cake.

Gill Davies, deputy ward sister, said: "We wanted to give a treat to our patients and their relatives, and what better way to do that than with a tea party?

"We hope they all enjoyed the chance to have a bit of cake and a cuppa with their family and friends."

The event followed the tea party-themed 'Carers' Café', which was held at the hospice the previous Tuesday, with carers of people living with a terminal illness able to access advice and support from Marie Curie and partners.

The Carers' Café is held on the first and last Tuesday of the month at the Bridgeman Road hospice.

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'FINISH ISLAND TRAFFIC LIGHTS!' demands resident

A RESIDENT on Barry Island says he is 'angry' that money has been 'splashed out' on resurfacing work on Port Road when traffic lights on the Island have remained idle since last November.

Barrie Evans said it was time the council got the traffic lights going at the junction of Harbour Road and Paget Road, adjacent to the railway bridge.

He said that when he saw tar oil and chippings being put down he was surprised because work had been done there in the recent past, and there were greater priorities.

The Vale Council told The GEM work at Cosy Corner on Barry Island is being carried out by the Waterfront Consortium.

Mr Evans said: "I can't believe that they've spent time resurfacing the stretch of Port Road from The Walston Castle up to roundabout that leads to the Alps. It was only resurfaced 18 months ago.

"At the junction on the Island drivers are bumping in to each other because the lights are not operational.

"Construction of the traffic light system was completed months ago. When is the council going to get them working?"

Mr Evans believes the delay may be over delivery of dropped kerbs on the pavements at the junction.

The traffic lights on the main junction on Barry Island are still not operational.

A surface dressing treatment has been applied to part of Port Road so that it needs fewer repairs in the future.

Coun Geoff Cox, Vale Council Cabinet member for neighbourhood services and transport, said: "This section of Port Road was not resurfaced 18 months ago, though significant work has been carried out in that time.

"A new bus lane has been installed to improve public transport links to Cardiff and encourage people to use this method of travel.

"Recent work has included a surface dressing treatment, which is designed to extend the life of the existing road surface, meaning fewer repairs and less money will need to be spent on it the future.

"The work at the Cosy Corner junction is being carried out by the Waterfront Consortium and their contractor, not the council.

"Though much of it has been completed, the traffic light system is not yet operational.

"The council has been pressing the consortium to finish the work for some time, and will continue to do so, with the aim of having it completed in the near future."

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Residents gathered at the bus stop on Lakin Drive. They say the bus service is not frequent enough.

Highlight Park residents picket bus stop in protest

HIGHLIGHT Park residents in Barry held a protest calling on the Welsh Government to help to improve the bus service in the area.

Residents gathered at the Lakin Drive bus stop to protest about what they say is an "insufficient service" which runs between the hours of 8.13am and 2.14pm.

They hope the Welsh Government will reverse its cuts to the Bus Service Support Grant (BSSG), which in 2014 saw the service curtailed.

Conservative councillor Leighton Rowlands, who has been campaigning for the bus service to be extended said: "Upon speaking to Highlight Park residents in my ward, it became instantly clear that this is one of the biggest problems facing those living in this area.

"I have contacted Cardiff Bus who operate the service on a commercial basis. They have informed me that running the service in the afternoon would not be cost effective.

"While I understand their reasoning, a reversal in the Welsh Government's reductions to the Bus Service Support Grant (BSSG) would surely help Cardiff Bus to run the service in the afternoon.

"The Welsh Government wastes millions of pounds every year to fund the T9 'ghost bus' to run empty between Cardiff and the airport, but cannot support much needed local services."

Local MP Alun Cairns added: "It makes no sense to me why a bus service as vital as the 98 would only run for such a limited number of hours in the day.

"Highlight Park residents who rely on this service have to return from town in the early afternoon, otherwise they are stranded. This cannot continue, as it simply isn't fair on those residents."

A Welsh Government spokesman said it wasn't a case of making a 'choice' between a local service and an airport service.

"We have protected our BSSG to all councils in Wales in recent budgets, which enables them to subsidise bus and community transport services they deem necessary in their areas.

"The Vale Council is separately and additionally reimbursed for the operation of the T9 service. It has never been a case of choosing local services over the airport shuttle, Vale communities should expect both."

Marie Curie bike ride

HERE'S a date for your diaries: Sunday, August 27 (Bank Holiday Sunday).

Locals from the Edmondes Arms pub in Cowbridge will be holding a fun bike ride to raise funds for Marie Curie Trust, Holme Tower hospice. The event gets underway at 10am from behind Cowbridge Town Hall.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us and ask your friends to come along too. If cycling isn't for you, then please donate, sponsor a friend or join us in the afternoon (at the Edmondes) for barbecue, festivities and an evening auction with some fantastic lots and, of course, some live music.

Our cause? We're cycling to remember our dear friend Kevin Barry whom we lost to cancer last year.

The Marie Curie Trust meant so much to Kevin and his family, just as they do to so many others. All our lives will be affected by cancer in some way and this is one small step to help Marie Curie continue their wonderful service until a cure can be found.

The route? From Cowbridge Town Hall to the Edmondes Arms, but the hard way.

The route will take you via Corntown, Ewenny, Ogmore, St Brides, Wick, past Llantwit Major and St Athan, then Llancadle, Bonvilston and finally back to Cowbridge. All in all about 30 miles.

The costs? For entrants to the bike ride, we're asking for a (voluntary) £20 per person by way of donation to Marie Curie Holme Tower hospice. Its really up to you.

The important bit: you can donate at the Edmondes Arms (anytime), with the tin-rattlers on the day, or by visiting our JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Edmondes-Bike-Ride.

Look for the flyers displayed around many of the stores around Cowbridge and mark August 27 in your diary. It will be great fun all in aid of a great cause.

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Police discover body of missing man

Jude went missing last week.

POLICE officers searching for 27-year-old Jude Bridges, who was reported missing last week, have located the body of a deceased man.

A spokesman said: "Sadly, we can confirm the identity of the deceased is Mr Bridges. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

"His family has been informed and is being supported by specially trained officers."

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Out & About with The GEM

Spider-Man's Homecoming is Marvel-lous!

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreen Talk and on Facebook - facebook.com/GEMScreenTalk

ONE of the best things about last year's *Captain America: Civil War* (and there were a few) was the arrival in the Marvel Cinematic Universe of Spider-Man. Having been in his own universe, literally, under the umbrella of Sony Pictures, the webslinger shone with Tom Holland taking on the role.

The first Spider-Man film to be set in the MCU (produced by Marvel alongside Sony) now hits cinemas in *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. Set after the events of *Civil War,* it sees Peter Parker adjusting to the real world after the adventures of the airport battle.

Having mingled with the likes of Captain America, Ant-Man et al, Parker is looking for some more excitement, so when Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr) takes Parker under his wing, Parker looks for action.

However, he meets his match when he stumbles upon Adrian Toomes (Michael Keaton), a man who has resorted to crime after Stark put his company out of business, and who is using stolen technology.

Otherwise known as The Vulture, can Spider-Man snare Toomes in his web and stop him wreaking more havoc...?

Given that Tom Holland is the third Spider-Man in 15 years, and this is the franchise's second reboot, it could be argued that cinemagoers and fans may be suffering from Spidey-fatigue.

It's a notion, however, that can be put to bed from the get-go, as *Spider-Man: Homecoming* is arguably the best film about the wallcrawler yet (nudging Sam Raimi's immense *Spiderman 2* for top spot), and in its own right a wonderful shot in the arm for what has been, on the whole, a rather moribund summer.

This is the first time we've seen Peter Parker as he was meant to be, a schoolboy with incredible powers fighting crime 'at ground level', and it's safe to say that director Jon Watts and Tom Holland have nailed the character.

Holland was incredible in his brief but memorable turn in *Civil War*, but given a whole film we get to see the true extent of his performance.

Undergoing the learning curve that most superheroes have to go through, Holland engages throughout; likeable, charismatic and hugely charming, he is the best actor to pull on the costume yet, delivering a wonderful performance.

In fact there's no weak points here; Robert Downey Jr and Jon Favreau (as Happy Hogan, sequestered as Parker's reluctant point man) enjoy some time away from the heavy lifting of the other Marvel films with breezy, but pivotal, turns, while the likes of Jacob Batalon as Parker's best friend, Zendaya as the pithy schoolmate, Tony Revolori as the charmless Flash (not that DC Comics one) and Marisa Tomei's Aunt May are all superb.

But what is a hero without a villain, and *Homecoming* offers up one of the best Marvel villains yet. It helps when you're given an actor as talented and as on-form as Michael Keaton is now, but with some clever writing Toomes is engaging, smartly-developed and captivating to watch.

It helps that he isn't written as a stone-cold villain; Toomes is a salvage company boss tasked with clearing up the mess left after the first Avengers film, but is put out of work when Tony Stark takes on the contract, or as one character puts it: "They make the mess then they get paid to clear it up", and needing to make ends meet, turns to dealing in the materials he was previously tasked with disposing.

Making the bad guy a character who fundamentally is doing no worse than those around him ("How do you think your friend Stark made his money?" he points out saliently to Parker at one point) is a shrewd move and one that pays huge dividends.

Director Jon Watts may be dipping his toe into the world of big-budget films here, but yet again Marvel get their choice of director spot on. Fusing an 80s, John Hughes-esque high school film (there's even a Ferris Bueller nod) with a superhero film may risk being over stylised, but in Watts' hands it works perfectly, a scenario where getting a date to the homecoming dance is as risky as stopping a bank robbery.

Watts gets the tone of the film just right, and in a world where Marvel are getting ever-more serious as we reach the Infinity War, it's nice to see a film that cuts loose and plays things a little more lightly.

Even at 133 minutes it breezes by in a heartbeat, and definitely leaves you wanting more. A perfect slice of Spider-Man fun, *Homecoming* is an exceptional film.

VERDICT: The first Spider-Man film set in the Marvel universe is a triumph, *Homecoming* is part-teen movie, part-superhero blockbuster– but wholly incredible! Tom Holland exudes charm as Peter Parker, Michael Keaton is a revelation as a (figuratively) grounded and realistic 'villain', and the film just sings from the start. A wondrous effort from Jon Watts, we finally have the Spider-Man we deserve. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Deadpool* (2016), *Iron Man* (2008).

Stained glass classes in Sully

STAINED glass classes will be starting again soon at Sully Road Old School every Monday between 7pm and 9pm.

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Crazy World guitarist at West End Club

INTERNATIONAL guitarist Derrin Nauendorf will be the next guest at this year's Barry Arts Festival, bringing his guitar skills, soulful vocals and powerful lyrics to Barry's West End Club this Saturday, July 15.

Australian guitarist Derrin Nauendorf.

Doors open at the club at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Australian-born Derrin recently released his tenth album *Crazy World* and recent extensive touring has taken him back home to Australia, across Europe, and on a successful tour of Russia which included a Philharmonic Hall sell-out.

He has also won praise for his writing, with the lyrics to his song 'Shipwrecked' published in a text book for English Literature by Cambridge University Press, after being played on Radio 2.

Barry Arts Festival organiser, Mike Duggan, said: "It will be great to have an artist of Derrin's standing as part of this year's Barry Arts Festival.

"With the support of Barry Town Council and Newydd Housing we are always looking to bring world class acts to Barry, and I am sure that Derrin will wow the West End audience."

Tickets, costing £10, are available direct from Barry West End Club, from Mike Duggan on 07561 143 114 or online via www.ticketsource.co.uk/barry-arts-festival.

MESSY CHURCH

THIS Sunday, July 16 at 2.30pm Messy Church will take place in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite Old Village Shop).

A spokesperson said: "From then on (except for August) every third Sunday in the month St Mary's Church and Zoar, Bonvilston invites toddlers and parents and youngsters of all ages."

Games, crafty things, Bible stories, refreshments for all the family. Plenty of parking – further information from Rev Lee Dutfield on 07784 869020; Rev Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann Roach, on 01446 781309.

National Theatre Wales plans to mark 70th anniversary of the NHS

A YEAR ahead of the National Health Service's 70th anniversary, National Theatre Wales (NTW) is inviting patients, families and staff, past and present, to share stories of their own experiences of the NHS.

On July 5, 1948, one of the biggest ideas ever to come out of Wales was born.

The brainchild of Ebbw Vale MP and the UK's Health Minister Aneurin 'Nye' Bevan, the NHS was a 'revolutionary' idea, formed along with the Welfare State during Britain's post-war period.

NTW inviting people in Wales to share their stories of the impact the NHS has had on their lives.

A spokesperson said: "NTW will create a series of seven 'multi-platform productions', made and performed live across the country and online in July 2018 called *NHS70*'.

"Get in touch by visiting nationaltheatre wales.org/nhs70 and filling in an online form; by post to National Theatre Wales, 30 Castle Arcade, Cardiff CF10 1BW; on Facebook at *www.facebook.com/nationaltheatrewales, or by leaving the company a message on your preferred social media platform using the hashtag #MyNHS70."*

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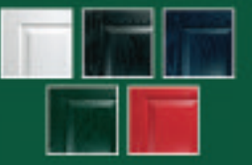

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NFU Cymru 'deeply worried' by new WG consultation

NFU CYMRU is urging farmers to get involved with the Welsh Government consultation on Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

The Welsh Government consultation, launched last week, is seeking views on a broad range of proposals that are highly relevant and which could have serious implications for farm businesses across Wales.

Proposals include enabling cycling and horse riding on footpaths; extending CRoW (Countryside and Rights of Way) Access land to rivers and other inland waters; as well as revoking the list of restrictions on CRoW Access land to allow organised games, camping, hang-gliding or para-gliding.

Other proposals include the introduction of basic measures for agriculture for the protection of water, air and soil quality. Basic measures are a regulatory approach that set minimum standards for undertaking specified activities and include provision to penalise those found to be in breach.

NFU Cymru Rural Affairs Board chair, Hedd Pugh, said: "From the title of the consultation, its significance would not be immediately apparent.

However, from closer examination of Welsh Government proposals it is clear that the content is highly relevant to our sector and will be deeply worrying for our members.

"In our view, many of the chapters merit separate consultation in their own right and it is disappointing that Welsh Government has opted to bundle them together in this way.

"Overall NFU Cymru is very disappointed that Welsh Government seems fixed on achieving the objective of the sustainable management of natural resources via costly regulation of farm businesses.

"We are clear that the new legislative framework and ways of working presents the opportunity for the industry to work with Welsh Government and NRW on the development of voluntary, partnership approaches that deliver better outcomes for farming, the environment and society."

Competition seeks 'creative ways of celebrating carers'

A CREATIVE writing and photography competition seeking poets, authors and photographers has launched in Bridgend on the subject of 'caring'.

The competition, launched by national charity, Carers UK and supported by Specsavers Healthcall, is open to everyone and welcomes poems, short stories and photography on all aspects of caring, and, said a spokesperson: "...exploring the joys, challenges and complex emotions that come with looking after a loved one".

First, second and third prizes for the competition are high street gift vouchers, while for entries making the shortlist, an anthology will be printed and sent back containing their work.

Heléna Herklots, chief executive of Carers UK, said: "We have had an overwhelming response to our creative writing competition in recent years, receiving hundreds of poems and short stories that reflect the true realities of caring – the good, the challenging and the humorous – resonating with all carers, no matter what their circumstances.

"We hope that by reaching more families than ever before through our competition and partnership with Specsavers Healthcall, carers will know that Carers UK is here for them with advice, information and support, whenever they might need us."

Alison Warren, director of Specsavers Healthcall in Cardiff and the Vale, said: "In the course of our home visits in the local area, we hear a wide range of inspirational stories that deserve to be heard.

"The competition acts as an ideal opportunity to celebrate both the fantastic care available in the area and the experiences of those who benefit from it."

Readers can enter one or more categories with up to two poems, each no longer than 40 lines; one short story, of up to 1,000 words or up to four photographs.

The deadline for entries is Monday, July 31.

Entries can be submitted online at www.carersuk.org/creativewriting or sent in the post to Creative writing competition, Carers UK, 20 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4LX.

'Unique' CAVC apprentices complete their courses

The junior apprentices with their tutors and (far left) Sharon James and CAVC schools manager Cara Moloney.

THE first cohort of 14 to 16-year-olds who have taken a 'unique' – in Wales – vocational career route at Cardiff and Vale College have completed their courses.

CAVC's year-11 junior apprentices were joined by friends, family and their tutors and treated to a special graduation and awards ceremony at the College's City Centre campus.

College principal Kay Martin said: "It's been an honour to stand on stage and celebrate the fantastic achievements of our junior apprentices; they have all worked so hard this year and come so far. It's been quite a journey but it has been more than worth it to see what these young people have accomplished."

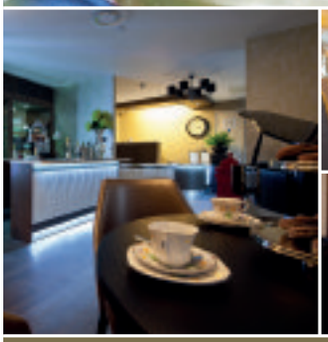
The graduation also featured an awards ceremony. Fifteen-year-old construction student Taylor Burford from Barry won the award for Most Improved Junior Apprentice, while hair and beauty learner Jade Cross, 15 and from Cardiff, won the award for Junior Apprentice of the Year.

"I'm chuffed to win this award," Jade said. "I've come a long way after a rough start – a really rough start. I've enjoyed this evening as well.

"The junior apprenticeship is really good and it will help me with my career. It's good because I did not get on with school."

Ward councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills, Castleland and Court Wards, Susan Lloyd-Selby, Owen Griffiths, Pamela Drake, Bronwen Brooks and Sandra Perkes will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday, July 15 in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, Kings Square from 10am until 11am. No appointment is necessary.



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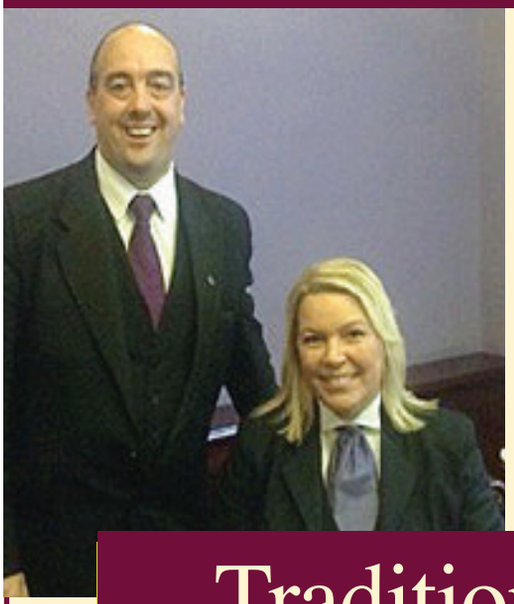

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Sometimes, all those details can get a bit overwhelming, and you can lose track of where you are, and find out too late that you have overlooked something important.

Therefore, it is always a good strategy to check out the experts, whether it is getting you to your point of departure in town, or making sure that your family pet is safe and well looked after.

If you don't want to look pale and pasty on a Mediterranean beach, then check out a good salon for the best bronzing advice.

Remember, taking advantage of someone else's expertise can mean you enjoy a much more relaxing break!

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Downs-Side Cattery is a home from home

DOWNS-SIDE Cattery is a friendly, local business, ensuring your pets are in the best possible care at all times.

The cattery is situated in the peaceful, green countryside in Penarth, providing home-from-home luxury for your cat while you are away.

Of course it's not just cats that need looking after if you're going away for a few days. We have a separate, spacious area for smaller animals to rest and enjoy the view of the garden.

We give them just as much care and attention and welcome you to bring along any toys or bedding that will make them feel more at home.

All pens are spacious, hygienic and allow natural daylight to stream through the windows to allow your cat to feel as comfortable as possible during their stay with us.

Every single one of our pens is constructed from uPVC, making our cattery more hygienic than traditional wooden pens.

We also have a veterinary nurse available upon request.

Get ready for summer with Vale Laser Clinic and Tathan Beautique

IT'S been a busy few weeks at Vale Laser Clinic and Tathan Beautique.

We've had building work done which has doubled our treatment rooms.

With experienced therapists joining us, we're extending our opening hours and have more treatments to offer.

You can come in for a relaxing Indian Head Massage as well as Swedish massage or have your nails extended with the brilliant new Gelish Polygel.

Lighter, stronger and easier than traditional acrylics, you can have your nails personalised with a large range of Gelish colours and designs.

Our CACI treatments are growing in popularity and we're seeing amazing results from the facials as well as the body treatments, including the cellulite reduction and bum lift.

Have a look at our social media for some great results.

If you want to get ready for your summer holiday call now on 01446 750880.

PUPILS TAKE THE LEAD TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

The Snowdog pups visit the trail's Learning Programme sponsors, Acorns Nurseries.

SCHOOLS across south Wales have been adopting puppies to help raise money for a children's hospice charity.

More than 50 schools have signed up to a special fundraising campaign in aid of Tŷ Hafan. The hospice's Snowdogs: Tails in Wales campaign will see more than 40 individually decorated giant fibreglass Snowdog sculptures scampering across Cardiff and the Vale for 10 weeks in a mass participation public art trail from September 16.

As part of the campaign's learning programme, pupils are taking part in a host of fundraising activities and have been given their own Snowdog pup, which is half the size of the giant ones, to design and unleash onto the autumn trail.

The campaign, inspired by much-loved animation *The Snowman and the Snowdog*, is being organised by children's hospice Tŷ Hafan, with support from brand owners Penguin Random House and event producers Wild in Art.

Thousands of friends and families are expected to follow the free public art trail to find their favourite Snowdogs and rediscover the region's amazing open spaces and iconic buildings along the way.

At the end of the 10-week trail, each of the large Snowdogs will be auctioned to raise thousands of pounds to help Tŷ Hafan offer care and support life-limited children, young people and their families across Wales. Pups are returned to their school or community project after the trail closes.

The learning programme part of the campaign is being sponsored by Acorns Nurseries.

For more information on the Snowdogs trail and how you can get involved, visit www.snowdogstailsin.wales.

'Donate a mug' coffee morning

ALL Saints' Church Hall in Barry was absolutely buzzing and packed on June 24, with people purchasing mugs at £1 that had been donated in aid of the Roof Restoration Project.

With over 60 mugs being sold on the day and including a raffle, the coffee morning raised a total of £245. Musical entertainment was provided by Tony and friends, which went down a storm.

Grateful thanks are extended to Marilyn Sylvester for organising such a fine event and working her socks off, providing the refreshments and raffle prizes.

Also a big 'thank you' to all those who donated mugs, bought tickets, attended on the day and helped out to make the morning such a success.

Many thanks for your help and support.

ANN ELLIOTT

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Samantha B super sale!

WHAT girl doesn't enjoy a bargain in a sale?

The 50 per cent off sale started last week, many ladies snapping up a few summer bargains, but don't worry there's still plenty to choose from, and all our usual services apply, great service and helpful advice.

This weekend we are holding a 'one-off sale' of past stock at ridiculous prices!

From Thursday, July 13 to Saturday, July 15, we will have a barn sale which is located behind Sam B, prices from as little as £2!

As one of our favourite labels is sadly no longer with us, there will be some fantastic opportunities to pick up some poppy knitwear, t-shirts or trousers - a great way to stock up on old favourites.

There will also be some other fab offers including Olsen, Bianca, Marble and others at crazy clearance prices.

Call in from 10am and see for yourself - call us on 01656 658388.

Mike Mitchell of United Worldwide Logistics and former S4C weather presenter Jenny Ogwen, with volunteers exhibiting a selection of the bags being transported to Anglesey.

Dinas businessman's puts on a 'Save the Children' fundraiser

A DINAS POWYS businessman is supporting a major fundraiser for 'Save the Children' in which volunteers across Wales are collecting 'pre-loved' handbags, scarves and ties to be sold at the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey next month.

Mike Mitchell is managing director of United Worldwide Logistics, a Barry and Pencoed haulage company.

Since the beginning of the year, he has supported Save the Children in his local community, volunteering his time to give inspirational talks on the work carried out by the organisation and offering funding and support through his family business.

Mike recently donated the use of a lorry and trailer from his fleet of vehicles and a dedicated driver to travel the length of Wales transporting the handbags, scarves and ties collected by volunteers in south Wales.

The goods will be sold at the National Eisteddfod between August 4 and 12, in a bid to raise funds for Save the Children's work in Wales and overseas.

The container of donations started its journey this week from Barry to Bodedern, where the Eisteddfod will be held. The donations will be sold on the Save the Children stall.

Mike explained: "I'm so pleased to be able to support Save the Children in this way.

"Save the Children became our company's charity of choice as soon as we saw the huge impact the organisation has locally, which I didn't realise before.

"To be able to support in a way that works around our business hasn't just been valuable to Save the Children, but has provided a more engaged workforce who have all enjoyed giving something back to our community."

During the Eisteddfod week, the charity's stall will be a hive of activity selling the donated goods and hosting events to promote the charity's work internationally and in Wales.

A celebrity auction will also be held on the Wednesday of the Eisteddfod with an opportunity to buy items donated by the likes of Katherine Jenkins, Sian Phillips, Jonathan Pryce, Bryn Terfel, Shan Cothi, S4C's *Heno* presenters and *Pobol y Cwm* actors, and a scarf donated by *Gavin & Stacey*'s very own Dave Coaches actor Steffan Rhodri.

Barry TV presenter and former HTV and S4C weatherlady Jenny Ogwen has also donated a bag for the auction.

Jenny has been a much-valued supporter of Save the Children for many years and is an ambassador for Save the Children in Wales. She bought the bag for the prestigious 'Women in Wales' lunch this year, an event which raised £30,000 for the charity's work in Wales.

Jenny said: "Over the years the National Eisteddfod had become a great place to shop with all kinds of fashionable bags, clothes and jewellery for sale. And this year the Save the Children stall will be the go-to place for a bargain – all of them either brand new or in excellent condition.

"There are even some designer items up for grabs! All proceeds will go towards an excellent cause."

Ruth John of Save the Children added: "We'd like to thank everyone involved in this project, from across the whole of Wales and over the borders into England.

"The support has been overwhelming and we are so very grateful for the time and effort taken to raise as much money as possible for Save the Children."

JANE HUTT JOINS EID CELEBRATION

Jane Hutt AM with local councillors, friends and members of the Rainbow Group.

VALE AM Jane Hutt, local councillors and friends joined an Eid party organised by the Rainbow Group on Saturday, July 8 at the Margaret Alexander Centre.

Marking the end of a month of daylight fasting during Ramadan, it raised £300 for the 'Grenfell Tower community'.

Chief Constable Peter Vaughan is to retire

THE Chief Constable of South Wales Police, Peter Vaughan, has announced his retirement from policing.

Mr Vaughan (54) will leave his role at the end 2017 after eight years in the post and more than 33 years in the police service.

There was praise on social media for Mr Vaughan, who was described as "a wonderful ambassador for South Wales Police" and "a true gentleman who has remained down to earth".

Chief Constable Vaughan said: "It has been a great honour and privilege to be the Chief Constable for South Wales Police, a service I joined in 1984.

"I have had the opportunity to work across the whole of the South Wales Police area, in many different ranks and roles, and experience first-hand the warmth and support of our communities.

"This, combined with the commitment of the exceptional people who work for us and with us has ensured that at a time of austerity the service we provide to those communities has gone from strength to strength.

"South Wales Police is recognised nationally for that positive connection with the communities we serve, for the way we engage with the victims of crime, for our visibility and our use of technology. I do think that I have had the best job in the world serving the best communities, with the best people.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of our officers and staff for all their hard work, dedication and support."

Mr Vaughan, from Aberfan, started his career with South Wales Police in 1984 and has served in each area of the force.

He rose through the force and in April 2007 was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief Constable at South Wales Police. He became Chief Constable on January 1, 2010.

In 2013, he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the New Years' Honours.

Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales Police, Alun Michael said: "After 33 years police service, Chief Constable Peter Vaughan has announced his intention to retire.

"I want to thank him personally for his commitment over many years, and in particular for his support over the past five years in carrying out my role as the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

"Peter has been a pleasure to work with – challenging and innovative and creative – and together we have created a strong foundation on which to build."

Chief Constable Peter Vaughan will leave his role at the end of 2017.

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HOMES & Gardens

Patio varieties pave the way to perfection

GIVE YOUR GARDEN A MAKEOVER!

We all used to go out and buy annual bedding plants to give summer colour to our patios, but now we can be so much more adventurous.

Patio varieties of fruit, vegetables and perennials are all widely available and becoming increasingly popular, as garden space diminishes and urban gardens flourish.

"We've seen a continued interest in patio varieties, even in our 'grow your own' selections," says Mark Sage, head of horticulture at Wyevale Garden Centres.

"Things like terrace patio fruit – varieties which are grafted on to a rootstock which means they get up to about 5ft tall – will thrive even in smaller spaces such as a balcony in a flat."

There are tomato ranges which do well in hanging baskets, along with colourful salad leaves and other veg. Fruit has also come a long way from the traditional citrus that you grew in a large pot in the conservatory.

Now there's even a new dwarf mulberry (Charlotte Russe, exclusive to Suttons, *www.suttons.co.uk*) you can grow in a patio pot.

"The continued interest in 'grow your own' has seen breeders working extensively on getting really good productive, tasty fruit and vegetables suitable for container gardening, and we've seen a lot of work being done particularly on fruit trees," says Sage.

He recommends the doughnut peach – a flat type – or the ice peach, which are perfect for the small container. Some flowering cherry varieties are top grafted, so they won't get any taller, their head size will just get a bit bigger.

Some will need protection from frost. Peach trees will need to be protected during the winter months in a sheltered situation.

Slow-growing dwarf acers are great in patio pots, as are willows. Climbers such as clematis, traditionally reaching great heights and often used to scale fences and house walls or climb through large shrubs, have long been available in dwarf proportions suitable for pots.

New, more compact, varieties of perennials suitable for pots include Helenium 'Short 'n Sassy', which puts on a long-lasting display of golden blooms with chocolate-coloured cones (Dobies, *www.dobies.co.uk*), while container buddleias are also widely available.

Many gardeners who want instant colour end up shelling out on packs of bedding – but take care when you're buying because some annuals are better than others, Sage advises.

"People want plants that are bullet-proof. Bush red geraniums are our best-selling bedding plant, along with white bacopa. These lines perform whatever the weather and form the basis of many displays."

However, there is a wealth of difference between seed-raised bedding and cutting-raised bedding, he notes.

"To all intents and purposes, the product looks exactly the same. But in the middle of the summer, your seed-raised bacopa will have exhausted itself and completely run out of energy, whereas a cutting-raised vegetative variety that is generally more expensive to produce will keep on going through until the first frosts.

"When you buy cheap, you have a tendency to buy mass-produced, cheaply-produced products such as a seed-raised bacopa, but actually what you want is value within your plant, and something that's going to last a season."

Easier said than done. It's virtually impossible to distinguish a seed-raised bedding plant from a cutting-raised one at point of sale, he admits.

The only way to tell is by the price – better quality cutting-raised bedding will be more expensive. Buy plants which are being sold en masse by the tray and they will generally be seed-raised.

However, some seed-raised bedding will flower well and long in the right conditions, he reflects, including busy Lizzies and Begonia semperflorens.

Bacopa and lobelia are far superior when cutting-raised, he says. Typically, seed-raised and cutting-raised plants will be found in different places in your garden centre.

Budget-end boxes of seed-raised bedding are likely to be grouped together, while more premium-end products are likely to be sold singly in pots and may be located near hanging baskets or containers, where customers buy a selection of individual plants.

Sage sums it up. "With bedding, you get what you pay for."

BEST OF THE BUNCH - Alpine phlox

This low-growing, pint-sized perennial, whose flowers pack a colourful punch, is a valuable addition to the rockery or scree bed, or even added to pots where its flowers will tumble over the edge, providing a carpet of colour accompanied by other taller spring flowers and evergreens.

Dwarf varieties such as P. subulata flower in late spring and early summer and prefer well-drained soil in full sun.

Summer-flowering plants, such as P. divaricata 'Chattahoochee', prefer a woodland area where their pale flowers glow in the shade.

Good varieties of the mat-forming types include P. Lilacina, a pale lilac variety and Kelly's Eye, with its striking pink flowers.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

How to tackle gooseberry sawfly

If you see small S-shaped grubs devouring the leaves of your gooseberry bushes, the chance is they are the caterpillar-like larvae of one of three species of gooseberry sawfly.

Depending on which type it is, the grubs will either be pale green with black spots and black heads or just with pale green heads.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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HOMES & Gardens

Pave your way to a new garden!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

The common gooseberry sawfly can have three generations a year, with larvae active in late April to June, July, and August to September. Female sawflies lay their eggs on the underside of leaves low down in the middle of the bush and the larvae eat their way upwards.

Their damage will result in severely defoliated plants, which may not crop well the next year. If you see them, you can either pick them off by hand or snip off the leaves they are invading.

Alternatively, use a biological control (nematode), sold as Fruit and Vegetable Protection, which can be watered on to infested plants.

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HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT A POND IN A POT?

JUST because you have a small garden or outside space doesn't mean you can't have a beautiful water feature to admire.

Not only is it possibly the lowest maintenance gardening there is, but it also provides a focal point and you can't over water the plants.

There are several varieties of aquatic plants you can choose from, but you will only need a few – three is plenty for an 18-inch or 24-inch tub or pot, so you still see plenty of open water.

Underwater plants. Often called oxygenators – these grow entirely under water. They can be used in container water features but aren't essential, however they do help in keeping algae at bay.

The pretty Water Violet is a British native plant with white-mauve flowers that appear in May-June.

Floaters. Their root system hangs down in the water and they are also good algae deterrents. They provide shade to the water and can have attractive flowers although many can't tolerate frost. Frogbit is also a British native plant, with small round pale green leaves and small white flowers from June-August. It drops down to the container base over the winter months.

Water lilies. These have their root systems anchored at the bottom of the water feature whilst the leaves and flowers float on the top of the water. There are several dwarf varieties that are perfect for container water gardens. Hardy water lilies that can tolerate frost tend only to flower in the daytime. Rubra is a miniature water-lily with small rounded leaves and slightly fragrant, cupped flowers that open deep rose-pink and then darken with age to deep red from June-September.

Pot ponds don't have to be in full sun, there are a number of aquatic plants that do well in shaded areas, but you need remember that water lilies flower better if they get three to five hours of direct sunlight a day.

Choosing the right pot for your garden and for a successful water feature is essential. If you are using a large sized terracotta pot, then you will need to plug the drain hole with a rubber or cork stopper and pond sealant.

Other water feature containers could be old Belfast basins and water troughs or half wooden barrels; they just need to be waterproof and leak free which is easy to achieve with a plastic liner. A darker interior works better as it reflects less light back into the water so looks deeper, and dark pots absorb more heat which is good in the spring for plant growth.

You can plant several types of aquatic plants in one container but if the plants you choose grow better at different water depths then plant them on a brick or small upturned clay pot in the water to raise them to the right level. Aquatic plants can be fast growers so may need thinning out from time to time.

For a real 'wow factor', put three pots or tubs together in an arrangement to create your very own, unique water garden and then just sit back and enjoy.

SARA MILNE

Water lilies in a garden pot pond.

REINVENTING THE CONSERVATORY ROOF REPLACEMENT & CONSERVATORY UPGRADE OPTIONS

As few as five years ago, polycarbonate would have been the main choice for a conservatory roof.

While letting plenty of light in, some found that their conservatories could be too bright in summer, while cool in winter.

Building technology has moved on, and there are now two solid roofs that can convert a conservatory

The first is a lightweight, 'tiled' roof that takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses.

Created using aluminium panels, with Kingspan insulation, these conservatory roofs can achieve a u value of just 0.16, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

With this roof option, the interior of the conservatory can include a plastered ceiling with down-lighters or even roof windows for ventilation and sky views.

For a more contemporary feel, the LivinRoof combines sleek lines and thermal efficiency to create something that looks very contemporary.

With the LivinRoof, entire panels can be glazed to create a hybrid solid and glass roof allowing you to choose where to have shaded areas and where to have more light.

Either of these roofs can be retrofitted to an existing structure, to make your conservatory more comfortable in the height of summer and depths of winter.

Activ Glass roof

A straightforward upgrade for those who want to keep an uninterrupted view of the blue skies up above is to opt for a modern, low emissivity (low-e) 'Activ', energy efficient glass roof.

Helping to reduce the variations in temperature associated with older, traditional glass or polycarbonate roofs, 'Activ' low-e glass helps cut solar glare, protect furniture from fading and keep heat in during the winter months.

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Barry school recognises its talent

BARRY Comprehensive School's annual presentation evening was a resounding celebration of success with over 160 students being nominated for awards.

These awards were for academic, sporting, artistic and personal success across the entire curriculum.

Holding the awards at Barry Memorial Hall highlighted the special nature of the evening and provided our talented musical students with the opportunity to showcase their recitals within a truly impressive venue.

Lyn Howell, former staff member and a local resident, returned to compère, while Gerard McNamara (headteacher), Antonia Forte (chair of governors) and special guests presented the awards.

As a school we are proud of the close partnerships between school and community and it is the continued support of parents that allows us to continue to build on success. We look forward to celebrating another successful year with the summer examination results. **AS**

LEFT: Students recognised for national and international sporting honours.

Members of the year-9 football team receiving the Army Shield from Antonia Forte and Gerard McNamara.

'RJ' Tomeldan receiving the Leslie Matthews Cup (outstanding personal progress).

Kyle Bellamy receiving the Harold 'Hy' Myers Award (drama) from Antonia Forte.

Ethan Lloyd receiving the Jimmy Jones Memorial Award (technology) from Antonia Forte.

Daley Chapman receiving the John Carter Memorial (performing arts) from Mrs Taylor.

Craig Watkins receiving the Governor's Award (for positive attitude to learning).

Jamie King receiving The Jamie Adamson Award (outstanding personality).

Iwan Lewis receiving the Anne Williams Shield (music) from Gerard McNamara.

Simon Williams receiving the headteacher's cup (for academic excellence) from Gerard McNamara.

Matthew Watkins receiving the Emrys Gwynne Award (chemistry) from Gerard McNamara.

Finnian O'Donovan receiving the Ford Shield (year-7 rugby).

Dinas Powys resident scoops £1,000 in the Loteri Cymru draw

A LUCKY Dinas Powys resident has won £1,000 in the latest Loteri Cymru draw.

One ticket winner in the village is now £1,000 richer after scooping one of 10 coveted loto+ giveaways.

All tickets bought for the main loto draw throughout the month, unless they win the jackpot, are automatically entered into the loto+ draw at the end of each month. Loto+ offers 10 guaranteed prizes of £1,000.

Dinas Powys was one of nine areas to have a winning loto+ ticket.

Loteri Cymru chief executive, Sue Carter, said: "We've now given out £30,000 in loto+ prizes since launching in April, and it's great to see such a wide spread of winners across the country."

The next draw will be this Friday, July 7, and the next monthly loto+ draw will be on July 28. Tickets for this week's loto draw can be bought online for £1 by anyone aged 16 or over at www.loteri.cymru, until 7pm on July 7.

The weekly loto draw has a guaranteed jackpot of £25,000 – the maximum the lottery can offer under society lottery rules – with proceeds raising money for grassroots community causes throughout Wales.

The jackpot isn't shared, and is guaranteed to anyone who matches five of 39 numbers. **AS**

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

Vale women tackle cycling challenge

A VALE woman is training for a well-known – but no less gruelling for that – charity cycling challenge

Kate Anstey, from Peterston-super-Ely, along with her friend Jackie Brown, is part of an group of women tackling a classic cycle challenge: riding the length of the UK from John O'Groats to Land's End (JOGLE) taking in Scotland, England and Wales.

It will mean cycling over 1,000 miles on 12 consecutive days, and they are raising funds for 'Women V Cancer' in September 2017.

The team will ride from the top of the UK to the bottom to support the work of three charities: Breast Cancer Care, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Ovarian Cancer Action.

Kate said: "The team will be riding between 60 and 100 miles a day.

"Whilst incredibly tough it will also be a journey full of fun, friendship and incredible support as women of all ages and from all walks of life come together to challenge themselves for a great cause."

Kate Anstey (right) and Jackie Brown pictured before a training ride.

Kate has recently cycled to Tenby from Peterston and back in two days, over 200 miles as part of her JOGLE training. She commutes to work which is a 22-mile round trip, mountain bikes, as well as cycling with friends and the Pontyclun Flyers.

As well as training, Kate must raise a minimum of £3,000 to support the work of the cancer charities and she is asking local people and companies to help her reach that target .

To pledge support for Kate please post a sponsorship donation, made payable to Women V Cancer CAF to her at 4, Gwern Y Steeple, Peterston-super-Ely, Cardiff CF5 6LG. Alternatively make an online donation at http://www.justgiving.com/kateanstey1

Retirement bash for EVCT employee

TO mark his contribution as co-ordinator for East Vale Community Transport (EVCT), Alun Harper was presented with a cheque at an informal party at Foxy's Deli last month.

Alun, who lives in Barry, has worked since 2003 with the Penarth-based charity which provides accessible minibus transport within the eastern Vale. He has co-ordinated bookings, maintained contact with the volunteer drivers, and completed all the associated administration.

During this time he has made many friends: grateful bus-users, volunteers drivers and trustees all gathered to wish him well.

He was accompanied by his wife, Chris, who is a trustee for the charity.

What made Alun special was his interest in the buses and their maintenance. In the 31-year history of EVCT, he is the only co-ordinator to understand buses as well as the needs of passengers. Luckily for those who depend on the EVCT to get them to, for example, meetings or shopping, volunteer driver Keith Crabtree has taken on this responsibility.

EVCT is now seeking a part-time co-ordinator to work at its office in Penarth, and would welcome applications. Currently the office is being run by volunteers and temporary workers.

For more information, email or phone enquiries@evct.org.uk or 02920 705138.

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Dinas Powys Probus club learns all about sex in honeybees and in humans

ON July 4, Professor Robert Pickard, Emeritus Professor of Neurobiology at Cardiff University, and an international authority on the biology of honeybees, gave a talk to the members on 'Sex in Honeybees and Humans', the word 'Sex' in this instance defining the subjects as being either male or female.

The true gender of a newly-born child is not always clear at birth. In a village in the Dominican Republic, most babies appear to be female but at the age of puberty, many are found to be male.

Survival in any species depends upon the ability to respond to change, not simply on intelligence or strength, the commonly held belief.

Honeybees are far ahead of humans in this; they control population numbers according to the needs of their colony, whereas humans have allowed the world population to grow, with very limited attempts at control.

The result is that now, although humans are currently living at the best time in their history, the world's population is now above sustainable levels and, unless control is accepted, in 50 years time the world will be short of food, water and energy.

Honeybees evolved around 40 million years ago. They are known as a 'superorganistic group', a social unit with a specialised division of labour.

Their society centres around a queen bee who, only when stimulated by worker bees, lays an egg. The workers indicate to her that the egg must either produce a queen or a worker, dependent on the colony's need. By so doing, the food supply is kept at a sufficient level for the hive to survive.

Any excess of queens above requirements is dealt with by converting them to workers, or they are killed. Bees can direct other bees to a food source two miles away simply by symbolic navigation, this is beyond human skills.

Humans are known as a 'herding society', they don' t seek out the likely outcomes of their actions, they have evolved to benefit individuals, not groups. They are unable to choose the sex of a baby at conception.

When Man was living in caves, around seven million years ago, there was a natural, if brutal, way of controlling population levels. Starvation was common, possibly due to climate change.

At such times, the dominant alpha male would kill children or weaker members of his clan for food.

Today, our food is so nutritious and full of protein, even the humble burger more than fulfills our daily needs.

There are no natural inhibitors to man's expansion. If man is to survive at something like his current life style, he must educate all nations to recognise the critical benefits to reducing birth levels and not allow birth rates seen in some countries to continue – and discover new energy resources.

Advances in medical sciences mean that any world-wide disease, however devastating would be unlikely to reduce our population level.

Bees share 80 per cent of human genes, but humans do have the important ability to love and be loved.

The vote of thanks was given by Edward Jenkins who complimented Professor Pickard on the scope and detail of his talk.

CR

Cowbridge cycle race attracts teams from far and wide

The Saturday morning team time trial.

Spectators watch the riders suffer as they climb the hill on Cowbridge by-pass.

THE annual Cowbridge two-day cycle race, organised by the Cardiff 100 Miles Road Cycling Club came to the Vale on June 17 and 18.

Members of the Vale Photographic Club were strategically placed around the various courses to cover the event during uncharacteristically hot weather, which caused some competitors to question which of these two clubs they preferred to belong to!

Stage 1 was a team trial event in which four members of each of 21 cycle clubs from around Wales and England cycled the 11.4km from the west end of Cowbridge bypass to Brocastle roundabout and back.

Local readers will be aware this includes the long drag of Crack Hill! The Shropshire-based Rhino Velo Race Team were worthy winners of this stage beating Bynea Cycling Club by only four hundredths of a second.

A second stage held that day was a conventional road race comprising two circuits of a course from the same start as Stage 1 but heading out to Ewenny and then Southerndown, Wick, the west end of Llantwit Major bypass and returning to Cowbridge.

The closing section required the competitors to scale another long drag to the eastern end of Cowbridge bypass. The 85km was completed joint first by two Cardiff Ajax riders, Joseph Rees and Daniel Maclean-Howell in a staggering two hours four minutes and 12 seconds, 17 seconds ahead of the next rider.

The third stage the following day, also a road race, featured a ride along the upper section of the Ogmore Valley through more varied scenery, though given the course profile it is questionable whether any of the competitors noticed!

Starting north of Aberthin, the race proceeded to Brynsadler and then to Llanharry, Llanharan, Pencoed, Bryncethin, and Blackmill, after which the first of three intermediate timing points was passed.

From there the route went briefly across the pass to the Ely valley through Coedely for the second timing point.

A third timing point was passed on the way back to Pencoed by the same route. The race then went to Pentre Meyrick and onward to that long drag again which is Cowbridge bypass!

The 72k of this stage were completed in one hour 49 minutes and 43 seconds by first placed Morgan Jones of Cwmcarn Paragon Cycle Club. Four other riders were awarded the same time.

A sizeable team of race officials led by Will Pring oversaw the event with commensurate skill. The overall classification for the event placed the aforementioned Cardiff Ajax riders as winner and runner up respectively.

Bro Radio and Wessex Garages kick start summer with Free Fuel Friday!

THIS summer, Bro Radio has teamed up with Wessex Garages Nissan to get on the road at local events across the Vale.

As part of the partnership, the station is giving away £25 in free fuel throughout July as part of the feature 'Free Fuel Friday'.

The competition sees the Bro Radio 'street team' head to a secret location in the Vale at 3.30pm each Friday. Listeners simply have to find the team and the Nissan Qashqai first with the secret password given away by Sweeney on air at 3.45pm to win the free fuel.

The first 'Free Fuel Friday' took place on July 7 with Johanna Davies finding the Bro Radio staff at McDonalds in Barry.

Although Johanna found the team first, she was joined just seconds later by Gina Goodard and decided that she would split the fuel equally.

When asked why she wanted to share the prize, Johanna said: "We were both there at the same time, it was very close call and it felt like it was the kind thing to do".

On being told of Johanna's good deed, Wessex Garages felt that it was only right to give Johanna and Gina the full £25 in fuel.

Gareth Howells, general manager of Wessex Garages, Nissan said: "It was so close between the winners and because Johanna showed such great sportsmanship we felt they were both deserved winners. It's a great way to kick start the Free Fuel Friday competitions."

Johanna plans to use the free fuel to take her young daughter to Folly Farm in the coming weeks.

Free Fuel Friday is running every Friday in July. For your chance to win £25 in free fuel this Friday stay tuned to Bro Radio 98.1fm or visit www.broradio.fm.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

READER 'SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE OF CYCLISTS'

I HAVE to take issue with Karl-James Langford and his misguided comments concerning cyclists and am concerned that a Liberal Party Parliamentary spokesperson should use The GEM as a platform for views which are clearly so out of step with the many health and environmental issues we all face.

I certainly agree that some cyclists can be a nuisance, particularly on pavements where they should not be, and the Highway Code suggests riding no more than two abreast, but to paint all cyclists as a menace is a bit beyond.

On the issue of trains, fair comment, but then this is up to the train companies to provide better facilities. You raise the questionable attitudes of some cyclists, but surely the same can be said for 'some' motorists.

I ran cycling club runs for junior riders over a number of years and for obvious safety reasons, the instructions to the riders was to 'single out' if we risked causing an obstruction, or even pull over and stop if the circumstances dictated it.

Very rarely did we have an issue with motorists or tractors. I continue to find the majority of motorists respect our vulnerability, and I think we all appreciate that consideration works both ways.

Cyclists have equal rights on the road with motorists and other road users, but to suggest limiting cyclists access to main roads and narrow lanes is facile.

Some four-fifths of bicycle commutes take place on minor roads so where do they go, cycle paths?

I used to commute from Llantwit to the centre of Cardiff regularly both for fitness and to save money. I had no choice as the quickest route was to use lanes and the main A48 through Culverhouse. Is Mr Langford suggesting this was inappropriate? Perhaps as a politician, he could lobby to improve the infrastructure which has already started as a result of the excellent work of Sustrans and provide more cycle lanes so that we don't have to risk ourselves on our main roads.

You say that cyclists do not contribute to the roads of this country. You claim they pay no specific tax, but simple research reveals that apparently some 80 per cent of cyclists hold a driving licence, and by cyclists it means those who use a bike at least twice a week.

However, it is a misnomer to use the phrase 'road tax'. This was replaced by Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) in 1937. You go on to make the assumption that a motorist is paying tax to use the roads and that the money goes back into the roads. This is not the case, as it goes to the Treasury for a range of purposes.

It is probably more accurate, therefore, to describe VED as a pollution tax as ultra low emissions are now exempted.

I would like to make some final observations, again based on simple research. In 2000 there were 27.2 million cars in the UK, in 2014 it rose to 31.7 million, increasing by one per cent a year. The average passenger vehicle emits approximately 4.7 metric tonnes of CO2 a year.

Clearly, these trends needs to be reversed as the environmental consequences are unsustainable.

Coronary heart disease and cardiovascular disease is now the number one killer, with the UK having some of the highest obesity levels in Western Europe with obesity rates in the UK among girls increasing by 8 per cent and 8.5 per cent for boys since 1980.

In short, there is an obvious and urgent case for increasing exercise levels, particularly among young people. The advantage of cycling is that everyone can relate to it as there are links between participation and elite excellence, which are hard to find in other forms of exercise as it relates directly to people's everyday lives – it's something you do and not just watch on the TV.

With some 15,000 cyclists doing the Velothon last weekend and with the Tour de France having more media coverage than ever before, I suspect you may be swimming (sorry cycling) against the tide.

Howard Braithwaite, Llantwit Major.

Congestion in Dinas Powys 'could be eased by a by-pass'

BARRY resident Peter Woodford suggested last week that traffic congestion through Dinas Powys could be reduced by widening Pen-y-Turnpike Road.

While different ideas are always healthy, this suggestion is unfortunately flawed.

It would increase the already high volume of morning commuting traffic rat-running from the A4055 into narrow Station Road through Dinas Powys old village to Pen-y-Turnpike and in the reverse direction in the afternoon.

Other residential roads leading from the A4055 to Pen-y-Turnpike have parked cars on both sides and are unsuitable for taking more traffic.

Approaching the unclassified Pen-y-Turnpike, there are two width restrictions to slow traffic and cope with the unsafe junction with Millbrook Road.

Despite the Vale Council earmarking this junction for improvement, each time a funding application has been made to the Welsh Government, it has been refused.

It is unlikely that the capacity of Pen-y-Turnpike could be significantly increased without acquisition of gardens and even house demolition. The junctions of some roads off Pen-y-Turnpike (I live in one of them) have insufficient visibility splays and are already unsafe.

Increasing the capacity of the Merrie Harrier Junction and constructing a by-pass would provide the relief which Mr Woodford desires and would also benefit adjoining communities as endorsed last week by Sully and Lavernock Community Council.

Now with a supportive Vale Council, the chances of this vision becoming a reality are greatly increased.

Roger Pattenden, Dinas Powys.

'Selfish' tractor drivers cause problems for other motorists

THE laws which govern tractors on our public roads needed to be drastically updated to match the increase in traffic and the drivers involved.

It is not right that a 16-year-old, who is not allowed a provisional licence to drive on a public road, even with a qualified driver, can pass a tractor test and be allowed to drive these machines, towing potentially lethal agricultural plant on the public highway.

These young drivers have no knowledge or experience of how to behave on our roads; we have all been in a situation where we have been held up for miles behind a tractor doing 20 miles an hour and refusing to pull in to available laybys to allow other traffic to pass.

I was in a queue on the A48 a couple of weeks ago, the tractor a dot in the distance with a wide machine on the back which stopped anyone passing.

When we were held up for roadworks, he was front of the queue and it would have been an expected courtesy for him to allow the 30-odd vehicles behind him through. Remember, it is not just the private motorist being delayed. Taxis, delivery vehicles, trucks, buses are all affected by one driver's selfishness. Of course he didn't.

The queue carried on for a few more miles until he finally turned off, no doubt happy, or at least indifferent to the people affected.

I then followed him through the country lanes, trying to keep my hospital appointment. I eventually got past, but no thanks to the driver.

I reported the driver, his number and description to the police, as I hope others did.

I returned home to a message from them, saying that the driver was "doing his job as was his right, and the matter was closed".

If there's a trailer on the back, don't even expect a number plate to report.

I have spoken to a local councillor and had a meeting with Andrew R T Davies for action.

Jo Cody, Llantwit Major.

'A different recollection of Cemetery Approach history'

I READ with interest the letter from Coun Gwyn John regarding Cemetery Approach.

My recollection of this site's history under the Conservative administration prior to 2012 is different to his.

Prior to this during the Labour-Plaid Cymru-Llantwit First coalition between 2006 and 2008, I understand that contracts had been exchanged for the sale of the land to Newydd Housing Association.

Newydd's planning application for housing was rejected early in 2008 and their contract to purchase did not proceed.

On February 15, 2012 as Leader of the Council I took a report to Cabinet recommending that a public consultation be carried seeking views as to the future use of the land. It was anticipated that this would be completed and a further report considered by Cabinet in September 2012.

Unfortunately, under the Labour-Llantwit First coalition between 2012 and 2017. matters did not proceed as quickly as anticipated.

Nevertheless, it is pleasing to see the project – which started in February 2012 – completed.

Gordon Kemp.

Cyclists should not inconvenience others

I READ the letter by a member of the Liberal Party who we in the local branch voted to be our parliamentary spokesperson.

But I feel maybe the letter went too far. I have to distance myself from the letter, although I agree with most of the contents.

The letter is not Liberal Party policy and maybe [the author] Mr Langford should be more careful in future.

I did have a very awkward experience, however, with cyclists on Sunday.

I had to take my daughter to hospital and the road was closed because of a cyclists' rally. Why should we have to put up with their hobby when we have to have this level of inconvenience?

It was an extra two hours before we could get to hospital.

Clare Paterson, Barry.

Praise for 'people power'

I REFER to the recent letter from Coun Gwyn John regarding Cemetery Approach in Barry.

I am so glad that 'people power' won the day and the local council in the end took note of the 10,000-plus local petition and finally delivered this excellent project.

I look back to the days when I was a member of the Labour group and being told off for speaking up for local residents.

Having listened to the concerns of the local residents, it was both Anthony Powell and myself in a group meeting in the leader's office that said housing was not wanted there, much to the anger and upset of the majority of the-then Labour group.

It just goes to show that people power can win and get results for the town.

Coun Richard Bertin, Court ward, Barry.

Valeways should be more welcoming to dog owners

I READ with interest that Valeways charity is looking for members and donations due to Vale Council funding cuts.

Will it now be welcoming dog owners to join and contribute?

On its summer guided walking festival, [it said that] dog owners were not allowed to take their dogs.

Ashley Wallace, Barry.

Phil Gibbins, chair of Valeways Trustees, responded: "Valeways has had a policy of not having dogs on its led walks since the programme was introduced.

The reason is that we regularly lead walks where there are livestock and we all know of incidents elsewhere where this has caused problems including serious injury.

We sympathise with the enquiry and recently we planned and advertised specially created walks which avoided the risk of meeting livestock.

Sadly, the response was very poor with only five dog walkers attending.

There are many areas of our beautiful Vale where dogs may be safely walked.

But as Valeways works to keep accessible to the public the rural rights of way that are our very special heritage this potential conflict with livestock is always going to be a consideration.

Liberal attitudes to cycling

AS the Liberal Party's National Executive Committee appointed spokesperson in Wales, I feel I need to respond to a letter published recently in The GEM in order to give the official Liberal Party position regarding bicycle transport.

At a time when the number of motor vehicles on our roads is at an all time high, and with official Government figures predicting a 142 per cent increase in traffic by 2025, Liberals recognise the continued impact this will inevitably have on the environment, on our increased consumption of fossil fuels with both the atmospheric pollution they cause and the resultant affect on the quality of people's lives.

Because of this, the Liberal Party is opposed to the building of more and more roads as a 'solution'.

Instead, the Liberal Party wholeheartedly supports the increased used of bicycle transport, as they do not pollute and require little space for parking and passage.

As such, the Liberal Party seeks to ensure a better provision of cycleways in urban areas and to encourage rail companies to formulate constructive strategies for the carriage of cycles on passenger services.

Vehicle Excise Duty, of which only a small percentage has ever been used for road building/repair, has never applied to bicycles; neither has the requirement for any form of insurance.

And while cycling proficiency training and the wearing of protective equipment is recommended, the Liberal Party has no plans to introduce them as law, seeing them as counterproductive to our vision of encouraging more and more people out of their cars, especially for the large number of short journeys that are undertaken on a regular basis.

Of course, it is incumbent upon all bicycle riders to adhere to both the law of the land and to the 'rules of the road', and the Liberal Party condemns all forms of anti-social behaviour.

Coun Lewis Rees, Liberal Party in Wales.

VALE FIREFLIES' ADVICE DAY

A VALE Fireflies' 'fun and advice day' is being held at Coastlands Family Church, Colcot, Barry on Wednesday, July 19 from 10am until 2pm.

A spokeswoman said: "People have a chance to win an Amazon tablet or slow cooker. There will be extensive advice on health and well-being, including a DIY workshop, blood pressure tests and healthy eating facts.

"There will also be information on volunteering and jobs. Glamorgan Voluntary Services will be attending the event.

"Everyone is welcome to this free event and there will be refreshments on the day."

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 7) ORDER 2017

1. On the 12th July 2017 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is to install the disabled persons parking places at the locations specified in Schedule 1 and remove the disabled persons parking places at the locations specified in Schedule 2 and install the parking restrictions at the locations specified in Schedules 3,4&5 below.
2. The Order will come into operation on 17th July 2017 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place whichever is the later and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 7) Order 2017"
3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.
4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 17th July 2017 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:
Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

SCHEDULE 1

Insert Map of the Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Places
Dunlin Court, Barry (AW52)
On the north west side from the north eastern building line of property numbers 65 to 68 in a south westerly direction for 3.6 metres.
Gladstone Road, Barry (148) (AV51)
On the south east side from the boundary line of property numbers 146 and 148 in a north easterly direction for a distance of 5.5 metres.
Kendrick Road, Barry (8) (AW51)
On the north east side from the boundary line of property numbers 6 and 8 in a north westerly direction for a distance of 5 metres.
Kingsland Crescent, Barry (51) (AW52)
On the west side from the boundary line of property numbers 49 and 51 in a northerly direction for a distance of 5 metres.
Plymouth Road, Barry (29) (AZ51)
On the north side from the boundary line of property numbers 28 and 29 in a westerly direction for a distance of 6 metres.
Salisbury Road, Barry (52) (AX49)
On the south east side from the boundary line of property numbers 50 and 52 in a north easterly direction for a distance of 5 metres.
Arcot Street, Penarth (46) (AJ64)
On the east side from the boundary line of property numbers 45 and 46 in a southerly direction for a distance of 5.5 metres.
John Street, Penarth (25) (AI65)
On the north east side from the boundary line of property numbers 24 and 25 in a north westerly direction for a distance of 5.5 metres.

SCHEDULE 2

Insert Map of the Proposed Removal of Disabled Persons Parking Places
Court Road, Barry (57) (AU52)
On the north west side from the boundary line of property numbers 55 and 57 in a north easterly direction for a distance of 5 metres.
Romilly Road, Barry (32) (AX49)
On the north west side from the boundary line of property numbers 31a and 32 in a north easterly direction for 6.5 metres.
Station Street, Barry (73) (AW52)
On the south west side from the boundary line of property numbers 71 and 73 in a north westerly direction for 5.7 metres.
Woodlands Road, Barry (61) (AU52)
On the south east side from the boundary line of property numbers 59 and 61 in a south westerly direction for 6 metres.
Hewell Street, Penarth (5) (AI63)
On the north east side from the boundary line of property numbers 5 and 6 in a north westerly direction for a distance of 4.9 metres.
Plassey Street, Penarth (71) (AJ65)
On the north east side from a point 25 metres north west of its junction with Albert Road in a north westerly direction for a distance of 6.6 metres.

SCHEDULE 3

Insert Map of Proposed Limited Waiting Mon to Saturday 8am to 6pm 2 hours no return within 2 hours except resident permit holders.
Court Road, Barry (57) (AU52)
On the north west side from the boundary line of property numbers 55 and 57 in a north easterly direction for a distance of 5 metres.
Woodlands Road, Barry (61) (AU52)
On the south east side from the boundary line of property numbers 59 and 61 in a south westerly direction for 6 metres.

SCHEDULE 4

Insert Map of Proposed Resident Only Parking Place Mon to Saturday 8am to 6.30pm.
Plassey Street, Penarth (71) (AJ65)
On the north east side from a point 25 metres north west of its junction with Albert Road in a north westerly direction for a distance of 6.6 metres.

SCHEDULE 5

Insert Map of Proposed Revocation of Limited Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 2 hours no return within 2 hours except resident permit holders
Kendrick Road, Barry (8) (AW51)
On the north east side from the boundary line of property numbers 6 and 8 in a north westerly direction for a distance of 5 metres.

Dated this 13th Day of July 2017.
M. E. Punter. Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

GORCHYMYN (GWAHARDD A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS A LLWYTHO A PHARCIO) (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIAD) (RHIF 7) 2017 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

1. Ar 12 Gorffennaf 2017, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124, a Rhan IV o Atodlen 9 o Ddeddf Rheoleiddio Traffig 1984 a Rhan 6 o Ddeddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill, gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg Orchymyn. Gosod mannau parcio i bobl anabl yn y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 1, gwaredu'r mannau parcio i bobl anabl yn y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 2, a phennu'r cyfyngiadau parcio yn y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlenni 3, 4 a 5 isod fydd effaith gyffredinol y Gorchymyn hwnnw.
2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 17 Gorffennaf 2017, neu ar y dyddiadau y bydd yr arwyddion a'r marciau ffordd wedi'u gosod, pa un bynnag sy'n ddiweddarach, a chyfeirir ato â'r enw "Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu Mannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) (Diwygiad) (Gorfodi Sifil) (Rhif 7) 2017"
3. Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynlluniau sy'n dangos yr ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.
4. Os ydych am gwestiynu dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'r darpariaethau ynddo ar y sail nad ydynt yn unol â'r pwerau a ddyfarnwyd gan y Ddeddf uchod neu ar y sail na chydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw un o ofynion y Ddeddf, neu unrhyw offeryn a wnaed dan y Ddeddf mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn, gallwch, o fewn chwe wythnos ar ôl 17 Gorffennaf 2017, wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwn.

Diwygir y Gorchymyn Rheoleiddio Traffig canlynol fel a ganlyn:
Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) Gwahardd a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio 2013

ATODLEN 1

Mewnosod Map o Ddeddf Personau Anabl Mannau Parcio Arfaethedig
Dunlin Court, y Barri (AW52)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-orllewinol, o linell ogledd-ddwyreiniol adeiladau rhifau 65 i 68, tua'r de-orllewin am 3.6 metr.
Gladstone Road, y Barri (148) (AV51)
Ar yr ochr dde-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 146 a 148 tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain am 5.5 metr.
Kendrick Road, y Barri (8) (AW51)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 6 a 8, tua'r gogledd-orllewin am 5 metr.
Kingsland Crescent, y Barri (51) (AW52)
Ar yr ochr orllewinol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 49 a 51 tua'r gogledd am 5 metr.
Plymouth Road, y Barri (29) (AZ51)
Ar yr ochr ogleddol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 28 a 29, tua'r gorllewin am 6 metr.
Salisbury Road, y Barri (52) (AX49)
Ar yr ochr dde-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 50 a 52 tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain am 5 metr.
Arcot Street, Penarth (46) (AJ64)
Ar yr ochr ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 45 a 46, tua'r de am 5.5 metr.
John Street, Penarth (25) (AI65)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 24 a 25, tua'r gogledd-orllewin am 5.5 metr.

ATODLEN 2

Mewnosod Map o'r Dileu Arfaethedig Pobl Anabl Man Parcio
Court Road, y Barri (57) (AU52)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-orllewinol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 55 a 57, tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain am 5 metr.
Romilly Road, y Barri (32) (AX49)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-orllewinol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 31a a 32, tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain am 6.5 metr.
Heol yr Orsaf, y Barri (73) (AW52)
Ar yr ochr dde-orllewinol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 71 a 73, tua'r gogledd-orllewin am 5.7 metr.
Woodlands Road, y Barri (61) (AU52)
Ar yr ochr dde-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 59 a 61, tua'r de-orllewin am 6 metr.
Hewell Street, Penarth (5) (AI63)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 5 a 6, tua'r gogledd-orllewin am 4.9 metr.
Plassey Street, Penarth (71) (AJ65)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o bwynt tua 25 metr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'i chyffordd ag Albert Road, tua'r gogledd-orllewin am 6.6 metr.

ATODLEN 3

Mewnosod Map of Arfaethedig Limited Mon Aros i Sadwrn 08:00-6:00 2 awr dim dychwelyd o fewn 2 awr ac eithrio deiliaid trwyddedau preswyl.
Court Road, y Barri (57) (AU52)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-orllewinol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 55 a 57, tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain am 5 metr.
Woodlands Road, y Barri (61) (AU52)
Ar yr ochr dde-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 59 a 61, tua'r de-orllewin am 6 metr.

ATODLEN 4

Mewnosod Map of Preswyl Arfaethedig Dim ond Man Parcio Llun i ddydd Sadwrn 8 y bore i 6.30pm.
Plassey Street, Penarth (71) (AJ65)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o bwynt tua 25 metr i'r gogledd-orllewin o'i chyffordd ag Albert Road, tua'r gogledd-orllewin am 6.6 metr.

ATODLEN 5

Mewnosod Map o Dirymu Arfaethedig Dydd Llun Aros Cyfyngedig i Sadwrn 08:00-6:00 2 awr dim dychwelyd o fewn 2 awr ac eithrio deiliaid trwyddedau preswyl
Kendrick Road, y Barri (8) (AW51)
Ar yr ochr ogledd-ddwyreiniol, o'r ffin rhwng safleoedd rhifau 6 a 8, tua'r gogledd-orllewin am 5 metr.

Dyddiedig 13 Gorffennaf 2017.
M. E. Punter. Cyfarwyddwr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, The Alps,
Gwenfô CF5 6AA

A coastal ramble unearths old industry at Aberthaw

A GROUP of 13 walkers and Ramakin joined Joy from Penarth and District Ramblers for a local circular ramble beginning in Cadoxton, before passing through Coldbrook and heading along Argae Lane and through Biglis Farm to long grassed meadows leading to Bryn y Don fields for morning break.

Soon the sun broke through the clouds and with the temperature rising and crossing the neatly cut Dinas Powys common to head up through the Twyncyn into the shade of woodland, a breeze was very much appreciated.

Dropping downhill by quiet lane past South Lodge, surrounded by a sweet smelling lavender hedge and emerging opposite St Andrew's Church, a stile near Glebe Farm led them back into fields.

Reaching Argae Lane and heading up through Gilbert Lane to Lidl, the lane continued downhill through housing developments to Pencoetre field and on through Treharne Road to St Cadoc's churchyard, for a short rest under the trees.

After making a brief visit into the church, a narrow path led uphill and through Victoria Park back to Cadoxton. They were joined by six more members, and the afternoon slipped lazily away at a splendid post-walk barbecue in hot sunshine.

Thirteen walkers joined Joy at east Aberthaw for the summer evening ramble, heading down through Well Road and along a narrow path below the main Vale railway line, to emerge beside the lake at Pleasant Harbour, where the blue sky and clouds along with the surrounding cordgrass were reflected in the tranquil water.

After the heat of the day, a brisk breeze cooled them as they tramped beside the sea defence wall in an easterly direction to cross the salt flats for the climb up the cliff path into Fontygary Leisure Centre.

After circumnavigating several fields near the disused western limestone quarry and returning back to Pleasant Harbour they visited the remains of the old limeworks which opened in 1888, where the four kilns were used to convert the local hydraulic blue limestone pebbles into powdery lime before being shipped out along part of the Taff Vale Railway.

Then, returning to the Blue Anchor with its glorious hanging baskets forming a blaze of colour, a pleasant drink rounded off the evening.

On July 13, meet 6.30pm at Colcot Road near the Colcot Arms for a 4.5-mile moderate walk taking in the Brynhill and Highlight valleys; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On July 15, meet 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a six-mile moderate walk at Coed Ely near Tonyrefail; contact Sue J on 029 2070 2901.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Vale AM joins actor to support ending youth homelessness

RECENTLY, Jane Hutt AM attended the launch of the 'End Youth Homelessness Campaign Cymru' in the Wales Millennium Centre.

The campaign, led in Wales by the homelessness charity Llamau, which has its roots in Barry, aims to 'end youth homelessness in Wales within the next 10 years'.

The campaign is also supported by Carwyn Jones AM and the actor Michael Sheen.

Ms Hutt said: "I signed a pledge to offer my support for this ambitious and important campaign as I believe no young person should have to experience homelessness."

Barry and District Soroptimists are taking part in the High Street Shopping Quarter Summer Fayre on Saturday, August 12, and will soon be celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Barry and District Soroptimists head for High Street fayre!

BARRY and District Soroptimists are taking part in the High Street Shopping Quarter Summer Fayre on Saturday, August 12, to raise funds for charity.

An event organiser said: "We're delighted that they're joining us in the run-up to their 50th anniversary. They will be selling homemade cakes in support of their various chosen charities.

"The event is all about the local community and of course supporting local independent shops.

"As such, we'll also be joined by the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band and Barry Community Choir.

"There will also be African drumming workshops, balloon modelling, a circus skills workshops, flower arranging competitions and lots of traditional fun and games.

"There will be a dog show running throughout the day – get in touch with Muddy Pawz on High Street if you want to get involved.

"Barry Round Table will also be getting involved. We'll be joined by Bro Radio for the day. And not forgetting, there will be lashings of strawberries and cream teas.

"The event will see the launch of the town-wide Shop Local Campaign, which aims to promote and support the local independent shops across the town."

The spokeswoman added: "As people may already know, High Street was recently voted the fourth Best Independent Shopping area in the UK, so it's the perfect place to launch the campaign."

Barry Town United appoint first team coach

AS preparations continue for the club's Welsh Premier League return, Barry Town United manager Gavin Chesterfield has strengthened his coaching staff with the appointment of Richard Williams as first team coach.

Williams brings a wealth of experience to the club from both his playing days and coaching background and is working towards his UEFA PRO License.

Commenting on the appointment, Chesterfield said: "I'm delighted to bring Richy to the club. He's someone I've worked closely with in recent years and he brings real quality and much experience.

"Ahead of next season, it's an area that I feel we needed to strengthen, but it needed to be the right person. Richy's qualities both as a coach and as a person ensure that he is a great fit for our club."

The Barry squad returned to training on Tuesday, July 4, bolstered by summer recruits Kayne McLaggon, Elliot Scotcher and Sam Jones.

The late Trevor Beerling (left).

Supporters will have a first chance to see the new signings in action on Saturday, July 15, when Welsh League Division One adversaries Goytre are their first pre-season opponents at Jenner Park (2.30pm kick-off).

Finally, the club was saddened to learn of the passing of long-time fan Trevor Beerling last week (*pictured with son Darren and the Welsh League Division One trophy at this year's awards evening*).

A regular at Jenner Park for countless seasons and a familiar presence on the team's long-distance coach trips, Trevor rarely missed a Barry Town fixture and helped the club in a number of different roles off the field, from clean-up volunteer to match sponsor.

A loyal Barry supporter through times thick and thin, it goes without saying that Trevor Beerling will be missed; and his unique character and enthusiasm for the game will not be soon forgotten. **AC**

LOVABLE LURCHER

Gordon and Rosamund.

ONE of Dogs Trust Bridgend's longest-serving canines has found a home after six months in kennels.

Six-year-old Gordon arrived at the Pen-y-Fai rehoming centre in January, and staff were baffled as to why he was being overlooked after thousands of visitors came through the doors but showed him little interest.

Gordon the lurcher has now been adopted by Rosamund Aubrey from Haverfordwest six months after he arrived at the rehoming centre.

A spokesperson said: "Making Gordon's time at the rehoming centre better is in part due to the continued support and funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery, who have helped provide agility equipment in the outdoors enclosures and extra staff, to provide dogs like him with more walks."

Since 2014, more than £4.3 million has been raised for Dogs Trust animals and staff have their fingers crossed that other overlooked dogs will find a home soon, such as Megan a seven-year-old Lurcher who has been looking for a home since May 2017.

Dogs Trust Bridgend has rehomed around 280 dogs so far this year. For more information, call the Rehoming Centre directly on 0300 303 0292 or visit at Court Colman farm, Pen y Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG or go online www.dogstrust.org.uk

Rhoose boxer is off to compete in Junior Commonwealth Games

Alun Cairns, Jay Munn, Neil Munn and fellow boxer Emily Griffiths (15) female Welsh champion at junior level at 45Kg.

EIGHTEEN-year-old Jay Munn from Rhoose is completing his final preparations before the Junior Commonwealth Games in the Bahamas later this month.

The young boxer will be representing Wales in the international competition for the first time, which will require him to win four consecutive fights in order to become champion.

The young boxer won the Welsh Youth title at 75Kg, and also represented Wales in the three nations championships, receiving a bronze, which qualified him for this July's Youth Commonwealth competition.

Jay Munn is a former Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil, who has been trained by his uncle Neil Munn since the beginning of his boxing career.

Speaking of the upcoming competition, Jay said: "I cannot wait to represent my country at the Commonwealth Games. This is my biggest competition to date and I am keen to take on other boxers from around the Commonwealth.

"I am so grateful to my uncle for the training he has given me over the years in his boxing gym in Penarth. He has taught me the importance of skill and discipline – amongst many other invaluable things.

"Without a doubt I will be thinking of all that he has taught me when I am in the ring."

Vale MP Alun Cairns visited Jay at the Penarth Amateur Boxing Club gym to wish him luck before the trip.

Mr Cairns said: "I met Jay at the very start of his boxing career, and it was clear then that he had a passion for the sport.

"I was astounded to see how much he has matured and improved – he is a very concentrated and driven young man who will undoubtedly go to the top of his sport.

"Good luck Jay; we're all behind you!"

Excellent month for Rhoose lady bowlers!

RHOOSE ladies bowls club have continued there success throughout the month of June.

Their first match on June 1 saw them travel to Porthcawl; on a difficult surface the ladies soon prevailed and came home the winners.

Scores: rink 1 M. Dutton, S. Slee, K. Bladen, & A. Shears 22 shots, Porthcawl 9 shots; rink 2 S. Dance, J. Green, P. Jupp. & D. Gardner18 shots, Porthcawl 14 shots.

On June 22 they were at home to Sully Sports. The ladies again delivered another stunning win.

Scores: rink 1 K. Mortimor Brown, A. Shears, R. Oxley Green, & K. Bladen. 26 shots, Sully Sports 7 shots; rink 2. M. Dutton, B. Langford, D. Gardner & P. Jupp. 20 shots, Sully Sports 14.

On July 6, once again on home ground, the ladies entertained Barry Central.

Scores: rink 1. B. Langford. M. Thomas, D. Gardner, & Jo Hopkins 24 shots, Barry Central 16 shots; rink 2. C. Barns, R. Oxley Green, A. Shears, & R. Craig. 33 shots, Barry Central 6 shots.

These wonderful results saw the Rhoose ladies progress to the top of the league - well done to you all.

In between all this the ladies enjoyed a lovely day when they attended the GCWBA patron's day.

This was held at Porthcawl Bowls Club and many ladies from all over the county attended.

After the game everyone enjoyed an excellent lunch at the High Tide restaurant where our president presented the winners with their prizes. **RC**

Calls to 'curb' gambling problem

JANE HUTT AM is backing calls for a National Assembly debate on the problem of 'excessive gambling'.

Answering questions from AMs, the Leader of the House and Vale AM spoke about the 'impact' of 'excessive' gambling.

She said prevention is 'crucial', and she 'felt sure' arrangements could be made for a debate on the issue to be held at the Assembly at an 'appropriate time'. **MP**

Fire safety check

SOUTH Wales Fire and Rescue Service is offering you a free fire check in your home.

You can have a free smoke alarm fitted. Come and have a chat to safety officer Dave Edwards on Tuesday, July 18 from 10am to 12pm at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Learn how to identify fire hazards in the home and what to do in the event of a fire. Special alarms are available for those hard of hearing. Call 01446 732385 for further information or just come along, no appointment is needed.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

BE PREPARED FOR FUN

FROM Beavers to Cubs, and from Scouts to Explorers, all ages and grades of those involved in Scouting in the Vale would have made Lord Baden-Powell proud at a recent get-together at Romilly Park in Barry.

Great weather and plenty of activities kept the crowds happy all day long.

PHOTOGRAPHS by JODIE REDBOURN
@belowandaboveproductions (Facebook)

Faldo confirmed for Senior Open

THE legends of golf are coming to Royal Porthcawl this month, with Sir Nick Faldo the latest big name to be confirmed for the star-studded field that will compete for the Senior Open Championship Presented by Rolex from July 27-30.

Six-time Major champion Faldo, the most successful British golfer in history, celebrates his 60th birthday on July 18 and believes there is no better way to mark more than 40 years as a professional than playing once again.

He said: "Playing a little competitive golf is part of my own plan for celebrating my 60th birthday and I look forward to playing the Senior Open."

Fijian Vijay Singh will also bid to add to his haul of three Major Championships when he makes his Senior Open Championship debut at Royal Porthcawl in what will be just his fourth European Senior Tour event.

Singh is one of a number of former Major Champions competing for the Senior Claret Jug later this month, joining the likes of José María Olazábal, Fred Couples, John Daly, Bernhard Langer, Sandy Lyle, Tom Watson, Todd Hamilton and Ian Woosnam in the star-studded field.

Tickets and hospitality packages are still available, and Councillor Huw David, the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, said: "We're absolutely thrilled that the Senior Open Championship Presented by Rolex is taking place in Bridgend County Borough once again and we're pleased to be one of the event partners.

"Three years ago, we were proud that the first golf 'Major' ever to be played in Wales was hosted here, and we're delighted to welcome fans back to our corner of the golfing world.

"It will be a tough task to top 2014 but I know that everyone at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club has pulled out all the stops to provide excellent playing conditions yet again.

For more information and to buy tickets for the Senior Open, please visit www.seniioropenchampionship.com or call 0800 023 2557, but Bridgend County Borough Council is giving away five pairs of season tickets for the Senior Open Championship – giving lucky golf fans the chance to watch every day of the action from Thursday to Sunday, including the practice day on Wednesday, July 26.

For your chance to win a pair of tickets, you can enter the competition via the council's 'BridgendCBC' Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts. Look out for the posts which will give instructions on how to get involved, and enter via all three social media channels to increase your chance of winning.

Entries can also be made by post by sending your name, telephone number and email address to 'Golf competition', Communications Marketing and Engagement Team, Bridgend County Borough Council, Level 1, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

The deadline entering the competition via social media or post is Wednesday 19 July.

110-RUN PARTNERSHIP IN VAIN FOR BARRY ATHLETIC

ON Saturday, Barry Athletic first XI entertained Cardiff Central on the Island under the new stewardship of Billy Usswald.

They were asked to bat first on a bright sunny afternoon and were soon up against it after they lost the wickets of Ellis, Anwar and Bruce with the score only 14.

This brought former skipper Nathan Baker and Lee Morgan together and they proceeded to compile a 110 run partnership and bring some respectability to the score before Baker was out for 57 patiently compiled runs.

Morgan was the fifth man out for 56 as Barry reached 164 for 5 in their 50 overs.

In reply Cardiff Central reached 166 for 2 with A Ilyas (63) and K Ilyas (69) as they ran out eight wicket winners with Simon Phillips taking 2 for 13.

Barry Athletic second XI travelled to Brecon and the hosts batted first and reached 253 for 7 with J Morgan 53, and Guni 4 for 55 for Barry.

In reply Barry were 188 all out with Guni (35) and Rokad (33) being the main run scorers with Starkey taking 3 for 41 for Brecon.

This weekend Barry Athletic first XI travel to Cardiff to face Lisvane, with the second XI at home to Blackwood on the Island - both games 12.30pm start.

MR

Llantwit Major A team proud but defeated

LLANTWIT MAJOR A team men's bowlers were short of two players for their visit to Millwood A last Saturday.

To add to their task, Millwood were able to field a number of their first team players as they did not have a league game.

The game was played in a good showing of camaraderie with much good humoured banter between both sides.

Llantwit's best performers were Cen Williams, Graham Snowdon, Dave Thomas and Pat Twomey, who in a tightly fought encounter managed to draw 15-15.

The game went down to the last end and Millwood were able to reverse the two shot lead that Llantwit had.

Llantwit's next best performing four were Ken Williams, Roy French, John Ball and John O'Brien who conceded early shots and finished losing by 14-24.

Needless to say, the two depleted rinks suffered heavy defeats, although they both performed well against strong opposition.

Mike Eversleigh, Andy Vincent and Dave Post bravely battled on and lost by 13-30. Doug Oatley, Les Fowler and Paul Brown held their own for most of the game but suffered large losses on the 17th and 19th ends eventually losing by 5-33.

Millwood's green is one of the more challenging surfaces and Llantwit A should be proud of their efforts despite the result.

Millwood's hospitality is superb and the post match buffet was excellent with a wide variety of savoury and sweet offerings, coupled with draught beer, lager and cider, it made the trip worthwhile.

The ever-improving Mike Eversleigh found some consolation when he won a bottle of whisky in the raffle.

Many thanks to Millwood and we look forward to your visit to us in late August.

PB

MURCH SLIP TO LOSS AGAINST RHOOSE

ON Wednesday, July 5, Murch Bowling Club played hosts to the Rhoose Bowling Club.

On a very warm evening a competitive game was played in a friendly manner between the two sides.

Despite good wins for the Murch rinks skipped by A. Cross and R. Mauchline and draw between the rinks skipped by A. Perry and C. Ashdown, the match overall was won by Rhoose due to a splendid win for the Rhoose rink skipped by G Laget.

On Saturday, July 8, Murch travelled across the city of Cardiff to play against Rhymney bowls club.

On an exceptionally fast green there were wins for the home rinks skipped by T. Stock, G. Bridgeman and A. Mackie.

R. Mauchline did skip his rink to victory but it was not enough to win the match overall.

As usual the game was played in a competitive but amicable atmosphere, which was a credit to both sides.

If you are interested in taking up bowls contact the Murch Bowling Club on 02920 513396 or visit the club and be assured of a warm welcome.

TP

Central defeat resilient Abercynon

AFTER their defeat at Roath Park last week, Barry Central got back to winning ways to defeat a resilient Abercynon team on Saturday, July 8.

Barry Central got their second win of the season to stay at mid-table at the halfway stage of the season.

Rink one of J.Bellamy, J.Frowd, G.Goldthorpe and skip D.Goddard had a good win, 38 shots to 8, while rink two of J.Selley, R.Pierce, J.Bergland and skip A.Rogers carried on with a 26 shots 8 win.

Rinks three and four unluckily lost by one and five shots respectively with the rinks of T.Goddard and T.Kaged dropping shots on the last few ends to go down.

TK

More than 15,000 cyclists arrive in south Wales to compete in the Cardiff Velothon

EVERY now and again, The GEM gets a letter on the subject of cycling – usually a clash of etiquette between two wheels and four.

As luck would have it, our letter pages this week have a number of views from readers, triggered by a strongly-worded epistle last week.

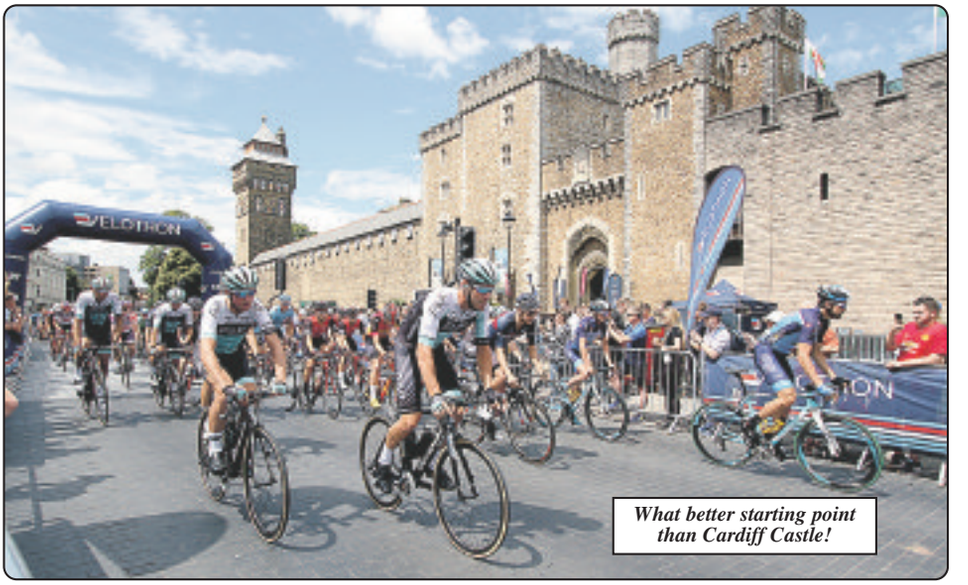
However, putting those disagreements aside, the success of the Velothon – which this year attracted more than 15,000 entrants – is proof of the popularity of a sport that certainly looks after the waistlines of the participants – although judging by the Tour de France this year, it doesn't do a great deal for knees, elbows and collar bones!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk



What better starting point than Cardiff Castle!

ABOVE: One of the professional teams. the Velothon gives amateur cyclists a good chance to compare their own times against the best in the sport.

BELOW: Two local entrants from the Ogmore Valley Wheelers.

Vale back to losing ways against Crumlin

LAST week saw the Vale first team go back to their winning ways, but this week saw them slump to another defeat at the hands of table toppers, Crumlin.

After winning the toss, captain JP Davies elected to bat on a very green pitch. Openers Alex Davidson and JJ Davies found it difficult to play the Crumlin attack as D Evans and K Williams bowled tight lines.

Williams (1-39) struck first taking Davidson caught behind by keeper I Hopkins. JJ Davies (19) and Joe Hodges fell cheaply too as Crumlin piled the pressure on the home side.

Withers (62) and JP Davies (45) went about steadying the Vale ship putting a vital partnership of over 50 runs, Withers scored his maiden half century for his new club before being caught in the deep off the bowling of Jolliffe (2-46).

With not enough runs on the board early on the pressure amplified on the Vale middle order and even the talismanic figures of Snelson and McCutcheon could not accelerate the run rate by much in order to give Vale the cushion they needed.

Young player Alex Upham (28no) showed his talent with the bat once again playing an array of shots that including a reverse sweep and a scoop. All batsmen who scored runs made valuable contributions to ensure that Vale scored the landmark total 200 meaning that maximum batting points were secured.

A special mention must go to Crumlin's opening bowler D Evans (1-15) who bowled an excellent spell that proved very difficult for the Vale batsman to do much with. C Lowther must also be commended for his efforts in the field despite suffering what seemed to be a painful side strain, we wish him the best in his recovery.

After tea, supplied by Vale Catering, both sides took to the field to thrash out a result with Crumlin requiring 204 to win. Both opening batsman appeared to be settled at the crease with the odd ball causing the batsman difficulties but Vale's openers struggled to find the consistency required to match the pressure they experienced in the last innings.

First change Snelson took the first wicket of the Crumlin innings after he replaced Alex Upham who was experiencing some discomfort causing him to come off early. Snelson (2-31) was the pick of the Vale bowlers and could easily have had more wickets on another day with a bit more luck.

McCutcheon also bowled well but sadly could not collect the wicket his bowling deserved leaving him with figures of 0-22 off his allotted nine overs. Other wickets were taken by JJ Davies (1-35) who also claimed a run out.

Despite their best effort, Vale could not prevent Crumlin from winning. Although the result of the game hung in the balance for some time Crumlin accelerated at the right moments. Good scored and contributions came from D Green (24) and R Hayward (32no).

The spectacle of the day however was the innings of C Hopkins who carried his team through their innings running up a personal score of 107no.

Hopkins punished Vale and could have been gone before he reached 50 if Withers had taken his chance behind the stumps; would it have made a difference, that's the beauty of cricket, you never know unless you take your chances.

Crumlin remain top of the table having secured 19 points leaving Vale in fourth and needing a good win against Creigiau next weekend.

Vale seconds travelled to Crumlin knowing a win would put them back in the promotion places.

Stand-in skipper Mark Francis won the toss and opted to bat. The opening partnership was full of experience as club chairman Gareth Andrews and Paul Sheppard steadily accumulated a partnership of 35 before Sheppard was caught in the covers.

This brought in form Skipper Francis to the wicket who soon found the boundary ropes hitting a 6 over square leg. Andrews and Francis added 41 before Francis was adjudged lbw for 27.

Andrews was joined by Matthew Thomas and with both batting positively they put together the best partnership of the innings of 82. Thomas producing some lovely off drives with Andrew scoring all round the wicket.

The partnership was ended when Thomas missed a full toss and was bowled for 40. Wickets fell as the less experienced batsmen arrived at the crease but Andrews was still looking to score his first century for Vale.

With him tantalisingly poised on 97 to achieve this he lofted the ball into the legside with mid-wicket under it. However, the relatively easy catch was dropped and two runs taken.

Andrews then promptly pushed a single that completed an excellent century including 17 boundaries and pushed Vale over 200. Andrews was caught shortly after for 102 and the Vale innings ended on 207- 7 off 40 overs. For Crumlin the best bowlers were Meek 2-14 and skipper Randall 2-48.

Vale needed to apply some early pressure and the skipper hoped the young duo of Gethin Merry and Rhys Bradshaw could contain and make some inroads into the Crumlin batting. Some loose bowling allowed Crumlin to get away to a flier as 9 fours and a number of wides were conceded in the first six overs.

However, Merry was the first to strike hitting the wickets in his fourth over to remove Parker. Despite this the skipper removed him from the attack to introduce spinner Sheppard and this was rewarded as Sheppard trapped G Davies lbw with his second ball for 32.

Bradshaw was now in rhythm and having had one catch dropped already struck as Chris Haskins made no mistake at point with the next chance as he ran in and took a very low catch.

At 56-3 Vale look well in the game and when Sheppard struck again via Dai Harris' well judged catch at square leg Vale looked in good shape but a partnership of 57 between Meek and C Williams gave Crumlin hope.

When Matthew Thomas removed C Williams for 32 the game still looked in the balance with the score at 118-5.

However, that was to be Vale's last success as Meek and Thipan then put together an impressive unbeaten partnership of 93 to take Crumlin to a 5 wicket success. Thipan finishing 52 not out and Meek 43 not out.

Sheppard 2-37, Bradshaw 1-38, Merry 1-33 and Thomas 1-29 were Vale's successful bowlers.

This defeat dents Vale seconds' promotion hopes as they are now stuck in third place behind Monkswood and Crumlin. They will need to string a few victories together to get their hopes back on track in the coming weeks.

CB

Vale of Glamorgan Pool League round-up

THE King William IV hosted the first scotch doubles final, an enthralling game won by the Billy United pair of Mark Ingram and John Farrugia.

The semi-finals were two evenly-matched games, the first between Jamie Stanton and Ian Hill who lost 3-1 to Mark Ingram and John Farrugia, followed by Whitchill boys James Hill and Ryan Rowlands just edging out Castle players Wayne Hobson and Gavin Rowlands 3-2.

The final was, at times, live streamed on Facebook by Anthony Mullins, a first for Barry pool.

The match started well for the Whitchill's James Hill and Ryan Rowlands, leading 1-0 then 2-1, but the Billy boys Ingram and Farrugia never gave up and won frames four and five.

For the first time Ingram and Farrugia were in front and should have won the sixth frame, but got beat on the black.

At 3-3 and going into the final frame none of the players were taking risky shots, and patience and a steady hand were required for this nervy encounter.

Ryan and James looked to be in control but an uncharacteristic mistake would give Mark Ingram a chance that he took, coolly potting his last ball to leave partner Farrugia a simple black over the pocket.

A great final played by four friends and a credit to all players.

The singles final will be contested by Ceri Morris and Mark Ingram, the match report and result in next week's report. This is another final for Mark who has had a great season.

The normal doubles final between Lawrence Klee Jamie Stanton of the Whitchill against Billy United opponents John Farrugia and Ceri Morris will take place Thursday night at 8.30pm at the Whitchill Hotel.

A reminder that the presentation night is this Saturday in the King William. The trophies are being handed out around 8.30pm and all are welcome; thanks to owners Dave and Jo for being mein hosts.

The new season starts Thursday, August 3 and the entry fee is £50 for one team and £90 for two teams.

We're looking for players and teams of all capabilities to join the league.

Please phone Anthony on 07568 444180 or text Joe on 07870 498738; you join or follow us on Facebook. **JB**

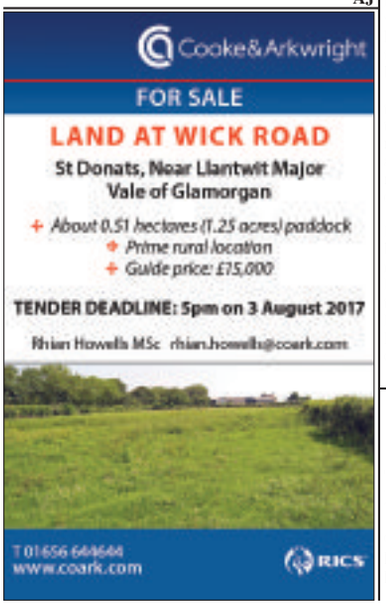
NEWS FROM BARRY RFC

THE lottery numbers for last week were 02, 05, 09 and 14.

Once again nobody managed to match all four numbers so this week's jackpot moves on to £5,450.

Following the announcement of two pre-season friendlies at home on August 5 and 12, Barry's first league fixture for the 2017-18 season will be away to Llantwit Fadre on Saturday, September 2.

AJ



Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club news

THE results for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club on July 3 are as follows:

First, Mike Best and Kevin Maddox, 65.15 per cent; second, Geoff Tinkler and John Henson, 62.96 per cent; third, Amy Owen and Lynne Watts, 61.11 per cent.

LE

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

JAYNE BRACE and her father Gwyn Brace from the Vale had plenty to smile about at Worcester races last Thursday when their nine-year-old *Get Home Now*, confidently ridden by 16-year-old James Bowen, the national novice champion point-to-point rider, landed the closing ROA/Racing Post Owners Jackpot Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle.

Get Home Now, who was backed from 11-2 to 4-1, is trained by the winning jockey's father Peter Bowen at Haverfordwest who had earlier saddled *Dr Robin* to win the handicap chase under James' older brother Sean Bowen.

Mr Brace said: "It was 16-year-old James Bowen's first ride as a professional jockey, having joined the ranks just four days earlier. He gave the horse a copybook stylish ride that any top professional jockey would have been proud of. Taking advantage of an 8lb weight allowance he kept the pressure on by being up front for most of the distance to score a nine lengths win going away.

"Jockeys, even the great AP McCoy, who rode thousands of winners, apart from their big race wins, seldom recall the horses that won, but without exception their first as a professional is always on the tip of the tongue. I am sure James Bowen will have this win etched in his memory all his life."

Mr Brace continued: "The Bowen yard enjoyed a very successful day with their two runners winning. *Dr Robin* had earlier won the two mile seven furlongs handicap steeplechase under the slightly older Sean Bowen.

"It took all of Sean's strength to record a three lengths win as when turning into the home straight the horse was lagging at the rear of the field. The pundits were hailing it as a potential ride of the month."

CILLIAN'S WELL'S NEWTON ABBOT SUCCESS

BRIDGEND trainer John Flint saw his seven-year-old *Cillian's Well* land the Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle under Mitchell Bastyan at Newton Abbot last Friday.

Cillian's Well, who went off the 11-8 favourite, got home by a neck from *Tamarillo Grove* in a field of 10 runners.

Earlier *Patricktom Boru,* owned by Bridgend builder Roger Willcox and trained at Llancarfan by Evan Williams, failed by three parts of a length to catch the favourite *Fort Gabriel* in the Racing Welfare Handicap Chase. *Fort Gabriel* who jumped better than *Patricktom Boru* was winning for the third time on the bounce.

Bargoed's Bernard Llewellyn took the VisitAtTheRaces.com Selling Handicap with 5-1 shot *Taste The Wine* who was ridden by his grandson Rob Williams and won by a neck from *On Albert's Head*.

LYNDA MARY WILLIAMS

THE funeral of Vale horse racing enthusiast Lynda Mary Williams, formerly of Moorlands Farm, Llantwit Major, took place at Coychurch Crematorium last Friday.

She was the loving widow of the late Rhys Williams who owned *Roll A Joint,* winner of the 1989 Scottish Grand National trained by Chris Popham and ridden by Brendon Powell.

If my memory serves me right after the horse's win he was paraded at Moorlands Farm when the Pentyrch Hunt held their point-to-point races on the land.

Sadly, Mrs Williams and a number of other people from the Vale lost many, many thousands of pounds when they were conned by a Mrs Alison Meryl Johnson who they believed was a trusted friend and who was later jailed for six years.

Incidentally, the story is told in my book Racing Rogues – The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales, published by St David's Press.

Barrivale Bridge Club results

BARRIVALE Bridge Club results for July 4:

1. Irene Thomas and Debbie Richards 63.33 per cent; 2. Mike Best and Mick Green 58.10 per cent; 3. Jane Brooks and Hilary Morgan 57.92 per cent.

Also, the handicap first place winners were June Reeves and Linda Houston.

As always, new members are welcome at Barrivale bridge club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us call 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively, players inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address where lessons and play take place in a relaxed atmosphere.

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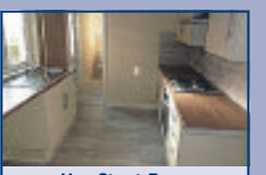

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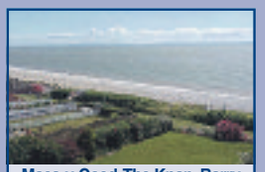

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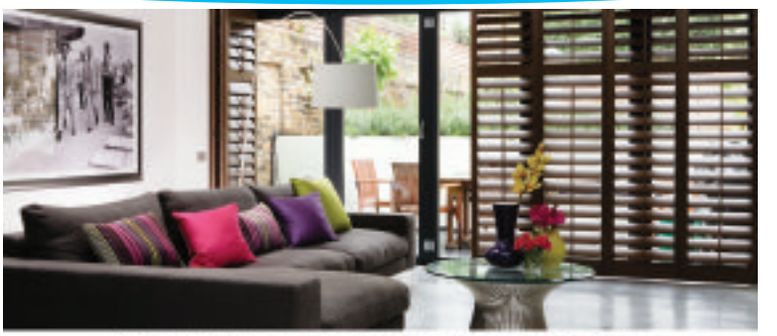

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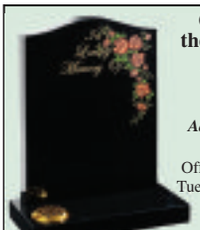

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Family Notices

WATKINS
Brian

Peacefully on 4th July at The University Hospital of Wales - Brian, well known for his time at BP Chemicals. Beloved husband of the late Gaynor, much loved dad of Lesley, loving grampy of Daniel and Lewis, respected father-in-law of Martin. Brother of Joan, Linda and the late Margaret, Frank and John.

Brian will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Barry on Wednesday, 19th July at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only - donations, if desired, can be made at the service to support the British Heart Foundation in memory of Brian.

BRAIN
Gilbert

Peacefully, after a short ilness, aged 102 years, at Holme Tower, Penarth on July 3rd, Gil of Hinchsliff Avenue, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of the late Cis, much loved dad of Irene, father-in-law of Derek, adored grandad of Adrian and Juliet, Andrea and Anthony, great-grandad of Amy and Tim.

Resting at A.G. Adams and Son Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the Chapel on Monday, July 17th at 12 noon followed, by cremation at The Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

MANLEY
John Henry (Jack)

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on July 5th, Jack of Sycamore Crescent, Barry but latterly of Baltimore House, Park Road, Barry. Dearest husband of Leah.

Jack will be sadly missed by all his friends and family.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Friday, July 21st at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

EVANS
Timothy David (Tim)

Peacefully on Sunday, 2nd July 2017 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Tim of West Road, Bridgend. Devoted son of the late David and Joy, much loved brother of Shan, a dear brother-in-law, uncle and friend.

Funeral service on Friday, 14th July 2017 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent direct to Kidney Research Wales, 2 Radnor Court, 256 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1GZ. All further enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP, Tel 01656 653156.

BISHOP
Noel George

Peacefully on 16 June at Llandough Hospital, Noel George, aged 91 years of Barry. Beloved husband of the late Paddy. A loved father of John, Nick, Frances and father-in-law of Marsha, Wendy and Geoff. Cherished grandfather of Christine, Andrew, Peter, Verdi and Claire.

Noel will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Tuesday, 18 July. Funeral service at St David's Methodist Church, Colcot, Barry at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Family flowers only, if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for B.H.F.

Acknowledgement

DANIELS

Teresa, Philip and family would like to thank everybody for attending Les's funeral and the kind donations received of £402 for the Teenage Cancer Trust Charity.

WEBB
David

Peacefully on July 6 at the University Hospital of Wales, with his devoted wife Adele at his side, David, aged 38 years. Much loved dad of Elise and Luke and loving stepdad to George and Joe. Brother of Alun, Colin and Linda.

David will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at All Saints Church, Barry on Friday, July 21 at 12.45pm, followed by a private family interment.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via David's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations received will support the work of CRUSE Bereavement Care.

WILLIAMS
Fay (née Hocking)

Peacefully at home surrounded by her family on 3rd July 2017, Fay, aged 78 years, beloved wife of the late Micky, much loved mum, nan and great nan.

Fay will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Thursday, 20th July at 12.45pm, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Air Ambulance c/o the funeral director.

In Memory

WILLIAMS
Karl

28 June 1974 - 19 July 2000

17 years today but pain does not go away,
Time does not heal the pain in our thoughts and our hearts,
Of every minure of every day.
Miss you so

Lots of Love Mum, Dad, Kris, Gemma, Curtis & Lacey xxx

HASWELL
Monica

Passed away 18th July 2015

'Though absent you are very near, still loved, still missed, and very dear.'

Loving husband John, family, and friends.

ORCHARD
Craig

Our wonderful son and brother who would be 33 on the 19th July.
Wishing you were here today
For even just a while,
So we could say Happy Birthday
And see your loving smile.

We miss you more than words can say but in our hearts you'll always stay.

All our love always Mum, Dad, Rhian, Jules, Bobo & Family xxx

DIMMICK
John

17.7.44 - 15.7.06

Loving you always, forgetting you never.

Susan xxx

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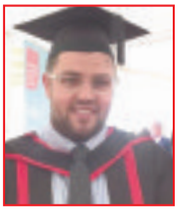

Congratulations

on achieving your PGCE to accompany your degree in forensic chemistry. We are all so proud of how hard you've worked and wish you the best in your role of chemistry teacher at Barry Comprehensive in September.

Love from
Mum, Simon, Louisa, Steph, Amber, Dylan, Jackson and all the family xxx

Carys Knapman

Congratulations

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Well done Carys
We're all very proud of you.
Lots of love Mum, Dad, Rhys, Nan and all the family xxx

Birthday

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XXX

Public Notices

NEIL HASTINGS GRAHAM
(Deceased)

ELIZABETH EPTON ALLEN
(Deceased)

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern, I/We Llantwit Major Town Council, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at **West Wing,** known as **Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major.**

The application is for: **Supply of alcohol 1200hrs to 2300hs.**

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to: The Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, or by email to licensing@valeof glamorgan.gov.uk not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed: R.E QUINN, TOWN CLERK
Date: 05 July 2017

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2017/00640/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Installation of a 12.5m mock telegraph pole, supporting shrouded antennas, 2 no. transmission dishes, 2 no. equipment cabinets and ancillary development thereto.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Streetworks on the footpath of Bron Y Mor at the junction with Lakeside, Barry
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth	Barry (Marine)
Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2017/00646/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	The refurbishment of the existing cottage and the provision of an ancillary dwelling and a replacement barn includes for the reinstatement of ponds. The existing pole barns and light industrial buildings are to be demolished.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Lane End, Michaelston le Pit Road, Michealston Le Pit
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth	Michaelston-le-Pit
Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2017/00654/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Alteration to boundary wall on river frontage (additional works to approval 2016/00808/FUL)
Location:/Lleoliad:	Britannia House, Penny Lane, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2017/00621/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed installation of 4 No. steel support posts and header beam in northern ground floor section of two storey barn to strengthen existing first floor.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Tymaen Farm, B4524 Ogmore Road at Ogmore, Ogmore
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2017/00652/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Variation of Conditions 1 & 2 of Planning Permission Ref 2009/01367/FUL to allow an extended period for the temporary car park during the construction of the Rookwood Specialist Rehabilitation Services extension, after which the land will be restored.
Location:/Lleoliad:	University Hospital Llandough, Penlan Road, Llandough, Penarth

May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/Rhif y cais:	2017/00520/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Revised roundabout arrangement to facilitate access to the new link road and the strategic housing development approved under 2014/01505 and to provide 4th arm for access to land to the north of the A48
Location:/Lleoliad:	Site of proposed new roundabout, Land at the A48, North of Darren Farm, Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 13 July, 2017

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning,
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Barry Town United gearing up for Newport County test

BARRY Town United have begun preparations for the biggest match of the summer, with old rivals Newport County set to bring a full-strength side to Jenner Park on Tuesday, July 25 (7.30pm).

The Exiles are the headline attraction of the Town's pre-season programme - with the match in Barry their penultimate friendly fixture before kicking off their Sky Bet League Two campaign in August.

Matches against Newport County are almost as old as the Jenner Park outfit itself, with Barry welcoming a Newport team for the first time in February of 1914, a feisty affair that the Barrians won 6-2 with former West Bromwich Albion man Bert Millard scoring the side's first ever hat-trick.

Meeting in the Southern, Western and Welsh Leagues across their respective histories, Barry's heaviest first team defeat would come at the feet of Newport, an 11-1 thrashing in 1932.

After the Second World War, Barry and Newport would contest what is thought to be Wales' earliest floodlit football match at Jenner Park in 1949, a fixture the visitors would win by three goals to one.

Two years on, the Town made their way to the FA Cup First Round for only the third time, yet again Newport would prove a stumbling block, handing Barry a 4-0 defeat in front of over 11,000 fans.

Then, in 1955, Newport would heap even more misery on the Town, putting an end to Barry's maiden defence of the Welsh Cup trophy with an 8-1 humbling of the holders at Somerton Park.

Accelerating to the 1990s, both Barry and Newport would find themselves in the same Beazer Homes League Midland Division, with the inaugural season of match-ups seeing both sides record a 1-0 success on home soil (Wayne Matthews scoring the winner for the Town in March 1991).

The subsequent season saw a big Boxing Day derby showdown between the two Welsh teams at Jenner Park, with Brian Davies and the prolific Steve Williams on target for the Town in a 2-2 draw.

However, the creation of the new League of Wales in 1992 would change the course of history, with the resultant dispute serving up the unlikely scenario of two Barry vs Newport matches played across the border in England (the respective teams exiled at Worcester and Moreton-in-Marsh).

While the Barry team finished ahead of Newport in 1991, 1992 and 1993, the clubs would soon take considerably differently paths; Newport waging a legal war with the Football Association of Wales that would ultimately preserve their place in the English system, while former Barry chairman Neil O' Halloran began chasing the dream of European success through the Welsh football pyramid.

Divided by a border politics, meetings between Barry and Newport became a rare occurrence; not even the fondly-remembered FAW Premier Cup, a competition designed to facilitate matches between the Welsh Premier League and Football League sides, would pair the teams together.

However, in 2011, the FAW's decision to invite the exiles back into the Welsh Cup saw a host of interesting ties pulled out, including a third round clash between Town and County at Spytty Park.

Having beaten Merthyr at Penydarren Park, Barry took to the field with aplomb that evening, taking a sensational lead when forward TJ Nagi fired home a stunning effort that soared into the stanchion.

The goal set the tone for a hard-fought war and while Newport would eventually emerge as 3-2 winners, the rollercoaster battle was one of the most memorable of the Town's entire campaign.

In May 2013, Newport secured a long-awaited return to the Football League, a mere two days before Barry found themselves without a league of any kind. However, with the Town rallying to survive and kick-start their own remarkable revival, the July 25 match at Jenner Park will be the first ever Barry vs Newport encounter to pit a Welsh Premier League side against one from the EFL.

Next week, we will look at some of the key players set to feature at Jenner Park, as well as the Newport County manager whose Champions League goal secured him a place in Town history.

Tickets for Barry Town United vs Newport County on Tuesday 25 July at Jenner Park are available from barry.ticketsource.co.uk at £5 (adults) and £3 (concessions), with small booking fee applicable.

AC

Barry Wanderers are back in drop zone after loss

BARRY Wanderers' first team find themselves back in the relegation places of Division Three after losing by six wickets to Pontymister and Cross Keys who completed a league double over the Wanderers after being promoted last season.

Unusually the captain James Hassett won the toss and elected to bat and despite the early loss of James Hornby, Hassett batting at a higher than normal three, batted beautifully and got the Barry team into an excellent position and put on 50 runs until the other opener Neil Blundell was bowled with the score on 68 for 2.

Hassett continued playing fluently with his clips of the legs through mid-wicket being especially attractive. However, the spin of Asif and Baker once again proved the undoing of the innings as the Wanderers batsmen were once again at a loss to play decent spin bowling.

Hassett had reached 50 which included 10 fours but fell for a superb 56 a ball after he should have been stumped by popping the ball up to point.

The score at this point was 105 for 3 with more than 25 overs to go but within 13 overs they had slumped to 155 for 8 and another disastrous innings on the cards.

Thankfully the ever smiling Danie Selvaraju came in and with the help of Sam Harris took the score to 194 off 45 overs and Selvaraju finishing on a typically entertaining 28 not out.

Asif finished with 4 for 31 from his nine overs and once again 200 and maximum bowling points had been a total too far.

The Wanderers still felt very much in the game at tea though and were looking for the opening pair of Rhodri Jones and Selvaraju to put a few back in the pavilion early doors and despite Jones bowling Dan Jones with the score on 15, the Wanderers were always from then on behind in the game.

Asif, after his four wickets, came in at three and batted as well as he bowled. The third wicket fell at a very similar score and overs to the Wanderers innings but from there on the partnership of Asif and Baker was equally as effective with the bat as it was with the ball.

They put on 89 in exactly 10 overs until Asif fell for an excellent 67 while Baker took them home to finish on 43 not out and have over 10 overs to spare. Baker is one of those players that reach 43 and you barely notice. An excellent cricketer and captain in this league.

Things will not be any easier this coming Saturday as they travel to table topping Crumlin but everyone wrote them off against Sully so you never know. Once again though players not being able to travel has meant the team is weaker than it could be.

Monmouth seconds, who last week fell by over 100 runs to Barry Wanderers seconds, must have felt perplexed as they saw that this week the Wanderers' seconds only manged 59 in reply to Pontymister and Cross Keys seconds.

Availability again meant a lack of strength in depth and this Saturday the seconds will be stronger due to better availability and players not able to go to Crumlin.

On Sunday, Westbury on Severn were warmly welcomed who have now been visiting what is now known as Hayes Point for over 20 years, along with some wives and girlfriends, having a pleasant day out.

Westbury are a strong team though, despite being a few men down from the morning, and their total of 222 was always going to be too much for the Sunday Wanderers who in reply made 123.

There were some highlights though as 64-year-old Chris Carpenter hit a cracking 19 before being given LBW by Cardiff City fan Ieuan Wade.

Wade suggested later that the connections Chris has to a former Swansea City player may have influenced his decision. The fact that Wade said this while wearing a Wales football shirt meant that he was probably joking!

Chris comes down from Birmingham to play for and the club are extremely grateful. Also, young Mark Williams finished 19 not out for his best-ever score so well done to him.

Off the field, the soon-to-be 75-years-old Peter Daughton turned up late as he was off lunching with one of his many lady friends and then proceeded to play tennis for ninety minutes. His stamina and attitude are an example to the younger members of the club!

On Saturday the firsts make the trip to run happy Crumlin who have several players more than capable of hitting centuries while the seconds welcome the same club, while on Sunday Arriva Trains are the visitors.

AF

Millwood Bowling Club round-up

IT has been a busy week on the green, with Millwood Bowling Club involved in three matches.

On Wednesday evening, we played Belle Vue in a Munro Cup fixture, with both teams evenly matched on the rinks. It turned out to be an evening of nip and tuck with both sides winning on two rinks, but the visitors took overall victory by a narrow margin of 10 points to four points.

On Saturday, Millwood A entertained Llantwit Major in a League 7 match. Unfortunately, due to late withdrawals, the club was unable to field a full team, but thanks go to those who did come to play.

As far as the match was concerned, three of the home rinks overwhelmed their opponents and on the fourth rink, the visitors played well over the last five ends to rescue a draw. The final result was a 102-46 shot victory for Millwood, who took 13 of the 14 points on offer.

Millwood Club side filled their afternoon with a friendly match against Whichurch Hospital and what an experience this turned out to be!

The team played as one would expect in a friendly, but competitive spirit and the speed of the green found many of the side having great difficulty adjusting.

Nevertheless, per-severance was shown in abundance and although the result did not go in Millwood's favour, a good afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Special thanks go to the Whitchurch Hospital side for the fixture and hospitality.

BH

POINT TO POINT MEMORIES:

Looking back with Brian Lee – 1989

THE GEM'S Brian Lee, who incidentally celebrates his 81st birthday today, July 13, has been reporting on the Welsh horse racing scene for more than half-a-century.

Today, he takes another look at one of his many press cuttings scrap books.

Under the heading 'Farmer Tipped to Win on Points', I wrote: "St Athan farmer John Thomas has high hopes of winning a race or two on his father Jim Thomas's *Stapster Park* when the Welsh point-to-point season gets under way on February 18.

"John (26) , is following a great family tradition. His grandfather Jack Thomas and father Jim were bot successful riders between-the- flags.

"His sister Carole has also ridden in hunt-races and on one occasion, got the better of him when riding in the members' race at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point meeting at St Hilary.

"Last season, John scored his first success outside Wales when winning at the Ross Harriers fixture on Rose Harry's Dinas Powis trained *Gerwyn*. John also did well at the Tredegar Farmers meeting on Ian Harley's *Brave Match*.

"Stapster Park, who only ran twice last season, showed good form when finishing third at the Brecon point-to-point."

With regard to the time Carol beat her brother, this is what I had to say in my book *The Races Came Off – The story of point-to-point racing in South and West Wales*:

"At the Glamorgan, at St Hilary, 20-year-old Carole Thomas and her 22-year-old brother, John, fought out the finish of the members' race. Carole set out on her grandfather's *Cottage Chest* to make all the running.

"Four fences out, she was joined by John riding former winning hurdler *Chastity Belt*. John actually headed his sister three out and called across to her to 'hang on'. It was then that Carole responded to her brother's call by staging a renewed challenge and, jumping the last in front, held on to win by four lengths."

That year, the late great Cardiff bookmaker, John Lovell, invited me to a meeting of bookmakers in Cardiff and this is what I reported at the time:

"Heated arguments about allowing English bookmakers to stand at Welsh point-to-points broke out between bookmakers when 30 of them – mostly Welsh – met at the Crest Hotel in Cardiff recently with the aim of forming the South and West Wales Point-To-Point Bookmakers Association.

"Betting without the favourite, double sized betting boards and the availability of pitches were other topics that had the gentlemen of the turf hot under the collar.

"Cardiff bookmaker John Lovell said: 'The formation of the association would bring Wales into line with all the other areas in the country.'"

Back then, there would be around 20 or 30 bookmakers at the Welsh point-to-points but these days we are lucky if eight or ten turn up.

Meanwhile, I am researching another book about Welsh horse racing and would like to hear from anyone with stories, press cuttings, photographs and information on notable Welsh owners, riders and trainers and, of course, any scandals, big gambles and scams.

I will be including chapters on point-to-point and flapping (unlicensed meetings). Also, does anyone have the contact details for Elain Mellor, formerly Williams, from the Vale, who won the ladies' jockeys' title on a number of occasions?

Contact brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone me at 02920736438.

Local chess players in international action

THIS week sees the start of the 14th South Wales International which takes place at the Park Inn Hotel in Cardiff.

This is a 10 round competition spread over seven days and is also one of the events leading to qualifying for the British Championships taking place at the end of July.

As usual the Barry Chess Club had three entrants into this event - Lee Davis ranked 22nd, Sam Jukes ranked 36th and Nigel Ralphs ranked 14th out of 53 competitors.

Saturday saw two rounds of play. For those players in the top half of the ranking they would expect to win their first match and conversely those in the bottom half would expect to lose.

This is exactly how the first round went - wins for Lee and Nigel and a defeat for Sam against Tim Kett.

In the second round played on Saturday first round winners would be paired with other winners and likewise for losers.

Lee and Nigel were both paired with 'Masters', Lee with FM David Ledger and Nigel with the Bulgarian GM Marion Petrov.

Lee had a rating deficit of 257 and Nigel of 348. It was no surprise to see both our Barry players lose.

Sam, however, defeated Kevin O'Rourke so after two rounds all three of our players were on one point from two games.

On Sunday there was only one round of games. Lee earned his second win of the tournament, Nigel drew and Sam had the misfortune to be paired with a much stronger player in Rudy Van Kemenade and lost.

So after 3 rounds of play Lee is tied in 15th place with 2/3, Nigel is tied in 21st place on 1.5/3 and Sam is tied in 36th place on 1/3.

The competition continues all week so more will be reported in next week's GEM.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards, whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com. **PHIL JONES**

DEBRA'S WINNER

DEBRA Hamer, who hails from the Vale, landed division two of the handicap hurdle at Worcester on Monday with her eight-year-old *ShanksForAMillion* who, racing for the first time in 592 days, won by three parts of a length from *State The Obvious*, trained by the legendary Jonjo O'Neill.

ShanksForAMillion was ridden by the talented 7lbs claimer Richard Patrick and was returned at odds of 8-1.

Debra, who now trains in west Wales, is the wife of former leading Bridgend point-to-point rider Paul Hamer.

BRIAN LEE

Romilly back on track with win

BARRY Romilly Bowls Club Welcomed Gelli Park (Rhondda) to Romilly Park on Saturday hoping to bounce back from their defeat the previous week at Troedyrhiw.

The CML league structures are changing next season resulting in three being relegated from Division One this season, therefore it is important for Romilly certainly need to win their home games to ensure their survival for this season.

The problem Romilly face is their green, which should be advantageous to them, but the playing surface is more like a garden than a bowling green. Compared to a number of other greens in the area the poor quality of the Romilly Park surface is not acceptable for bowling due to the heaviness of the playing surface, effecting members who struggle to reach the distance required, most certainly a number of the lady members.

On a fine Saturday afternoon the play began with Romilly taking an early lead and were seven ahead by the fifth end.

As the game progressed the rink of Gary Eastment, Paul Swannick, Graham Cogbill and skip Brian Foscolo were leading the way for Romilly, going 12 shots clear by the 10th end.

Also the rinks of Jeff Wright and Mel Newman were ahead by six apiece with only Mike Doyle's rink just five shots down leaving Romilly ahead overall by 19 shots, 49-30.

Between the 11th and 15th ends Foscolo's rink continued to forge even further ahead, 21-7, while Wright's rink of Alun Bryan, Jerry Daly and Clive Collins continued to play well, staying ahead of their opponents leading 18-11.

Also Newman's rink while playing confidently lost a couple shots but still held a four shot advantage at this stage, while the rink of Kelvyn Mills, Terry Bloomfield, Andrew Hatcher and Mike Doyle began to overhaul their opponents and went from being five behind at end 10 to being four ahead by the 15th, leading 17-13 and Romilly were ahead overall by 29 shots, 73-44.

Romilly were now in a position to win the game but wanted to win on all rinks to ensure full points.

The rinks of Foscolo and Doyle maintained their form to both win comfortably by 25-13 and 23-16 respectively whilst Newman's rink of Alan Bannister, Gwyn Rees and Fred Phillips also held their opponents well over the final ends to win by six shots but Wright's rink, who were holding a comfortable lead up until the 15th end, who were put under tremendous pressure but managed to hold their nerve, winning by two shots, 20-18.

Overall result was a 27 shot victory for Romilly, 90-63, taking the full 14 points.

Romilly A side and Munro Cup sides are having a mixed season - the A team have been struggling due to lack of numbers while the Munro Cup team are doing well despite a reverse at Dinas Powis in their last game. Currently the A team are struggling playing in the CML Division 3 after being promoted over the previous two seasons and with a shortage of strength in depth this year the rest of the season is going to be difficult.

The Munro Cup side is presently at the head of the league but there are a number of sides in close proximity, therefore it is imperative that Romilly do not lose any more games if they want to regain the cup this season.

Romilly held their annual triples tournament last Sunday with 24 teams in attendance.

On a sunny day group A began the first of their four games at 9am followed be group B at 10am.

Bacon sandwiches were available from the start with lunches after their second games and the BBQ ongoing for the rest of the day including the watering hole at 'Alfies' bar.

All bowlers were having a great time with plenty of joviality on display amongst the competitors but at the serious end the final was played out between local triple of Phil Gershenson, Rhys Phillips and Clive Collins against a Llantrisant triple entered by Roy Richards.

The game was one-sided with the Llantrisant trio winning comfortably.

The third and fourth place play-off was between a triple led by Romilly's Mel Newman and a triple from Penarth Windsor led by Rod Hudson and it was the visiting Windsor triple who came out on top following a brilliant bowl from Rod's wife Angela, who on the last end picked up the jack for a 2 to win by one shot, 9-8.

FP

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for July 10:

1st Glenda Roberts & Liam Sheridan 63.19%, 2nd Joy Seculer & John Salisbury 61.81%, 3rd John Beard & Bill Turner 61.57%.

LE

Cadoxton second best in Munro Cup

CADOXTON hosted a Munro Cup match, against Barry Athletic and finished second best on all rinks.

Unfortunately, Kelvin Chedgzoy lost his lead after just four ends and had to forfeit a quarter of their shots for the remainder of the game, which ended 15 each, before the adjustment.

Steve Clarke skipped the next rink due to the absence of the regular skip and failed by just five shots against Mike Vaughan. Howard Craven had a close game against Martin Clark, but failed by just one shot. Derek Jeffries fell 7-0 behind after four ends and never recovered.

Scores: J Stacey, D Tuck, D Hammond, S Clarke 11-16 T Bishop, J Callow, A Cooper, M Vaughan; E Heppenstall, J Papoutsou, R Byrne, D Jeffries 12-22 J Killin, R Harris, L Paige, T Morgan; D Fanning, M Curtis,, I Heppenstall, K Chedgzoy 12¼-15 R Fletcher, T Collins, G Jones, G Whittaker; W Craven, A Prince, P Ellis, H Craven 17-18 DL Jones, J Coombes, J Jones, M Clark. Final score: 52¼-71.

A terrific encounter took place on Murch Bowling green when Cadoxton where the visitors, in an ML5 match. The game went right to the wire, when the result was decided on the very last end.

Roy Harding's rink was first off after suffering a heavy 20 shot defeat from Roger Mauchline's 'four'.

This was followed shortly with the difference being negated, after a similar 20 shot success went in favour of Kelvin Chedgzoy with his team. They surged into a 13-1 lead after six ends, but although the opposition made a mini recovery, the advantage was still eight shots after sharing the next 10 ends.

A storming finish brought 13 more shorts to complete the tremendous win

Don Kuhnell's rink had to fight hard for their win against Alan Cross, but with the scores tied on the penultimate end, a sudden death final end was played.

The visitors had held the supremacy during the early stages, however a '4' and '3' took away the advantage on the 13th end with the score at 12-13.

The benefit fluctuated during the remaining ends until a '3' settled it on the last, in the visitor favour.

Howard Craven had a similar finish after a game which they controlled in the early stages. However, they were two shots down on the rink going into the final end, but holding a one shot, match advantage.

The disappointing outcome was a '2' for the home side to give them the rink win also the narrowest of success's, with the aggregate.

Scores: D Hammond, I Heppenstall, I Robertson, D Kubnell 22-19 B Frampton, D Davies, D Rogan, A Cross; W Craven, R Byrne, P Ellis, H Craven 16-20 D Perkins, J Harrison, M Warman, I Williams; E Heppenstall, M Curtis, S Clarke, K Chedgzoy 30-10 W Spear, A Perry, T Rice, T Phillips; D Tuck, J Papoutsou, D Jeffries, R Harding 9-29 C Salvidge, G lane, D Poole, R Mauchline. Final score: 77-78.

The visit to Llantwit Major for a Munro Cup fixture brought Cadoxton little success on a lovely evening.

The rink skipped by Howard Craven was the only one to collect any points with 10 winning ends from the 18 played against Adrian Wood's team.

They always held the ascendancy after taking an early 6-1 lead. The game continued with each side winning an end, alternately.

After 13 ends were completed the gap was still five shots. A strong finish included two '3's to widen the gap.

Derek Jeffries also skipped his rink to a 6-1 early advantage, against Charles Hiscock. Unfortunately the home advantage took over and two '4's and a '3' were conceded during the next three ends. This deficit was never recovered.

For the third occasion the visitors took a 6-1 advantage skipped by Gordon Davies with Steve Booker his opposite number.

The difference was slowly reduced until the 13th end when the lead was taken for the first time by the home side after scoring a '6'. The remaining four ends brought two singles to each side.

The final rink was played with one player short against Graham Jones. It was skipped by Don Kuhnell and in the early stages the score was kept in check to hold a 6-5 lead.

John Papoutsou was playing an outstanding game, and getting the upper hand regularly, playing with two bowls against four.

However on the 10th end a '6' was conceded to give the advantage to the home side. During the remainder of the match each side won four ends, but the home side held out for the win.

Scores: J Papoutsou, S Clarke, D Kuhnell 12-23 L Fowler, E Sparks, N Young, G Jones; A Guest, D Hammond, R Byrne, D Jeffries 9-19 J Moison, P Twomey, A Hayes, C Hiscock; J Stacey, M Curtis, I Robertson, G Davies 11-16 D Mutlow, M Everleigh, T Ingroville, S Booker; W Craven, A Prince, P Ellis, H Craven 22-14 G Fox, L Fry, N Nixon, A Woods. Final score: 54-72.

Cadoxton was the venue for another tremendous game of bowls, when Carfarthfa Castle, were the visitors. This also went until the final bowl to decide the result.

After 10 ends Cadoxton held a 13 shot lead, but gradually the visitors played their way back into the game with some excellent bowling. With two ends left they had taken a three shot advantage.

Two rinks had finished leaving the last end to be completed on the other two rinks. Roy Harding's rink were two shot down after 16 ends but failed to score in the remaining ends.

Howard Craven held the ascendancy throughout the game and the difference in the aggregate score on completion of both rinks was two shots down. In a very tense game the scores on Don Kuhnell's rink were very close and were level on several occasions.

However they dropped behind with the constant pressure and trailed by 10 shots with two ends left.

Meanwhile Kelvin Chedgzoy was continuing the good form from the previous match by building a good advantage. Nevertheless the opposition struck back with nine shots against one over four ends to build the tension.

Two ends each left, with the aggregate six against. The first rink finished with a single and a '3'. On his penultimate end Kelvin scored a '3'.

This left him just one in front so needed a win on the final end. With his final bowl he faced a three deficit. The outcome was a trail on the jack for a winning '3'shots. Well done Kelvin!

Scores: J Stacey I Heppenstall, I Robertson, D Kubnell 15-21; G Solomon, A Prince, P Ellis, H Craven 21-13; E Heppenstall, J Papoutsou, J Davies, K Chedgzoy 31-19; G Davies, D Hammond, D Jeffries, R Harding 14-24. Final score: 81-77.

DK

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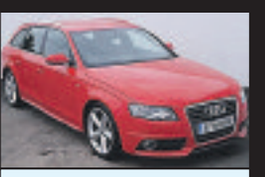
2004 BMW Z4 2.5 i SE Roadster 2dr FSH 9X SERVICE STAMPS BIG SPEC, Grey, OY54UDP £4,495



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2010 Mercedes-Benz GL Class 3.0 GL350 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Sport 5dr, Silver, LOADED NAV ; LTHR : CAM : FSH, BD60ZFR £18,990

2013 Volvo XC60 2.4 D4 SE Lux Geartronic AWD 5dr, Grey, 52,700 miles, 1 OWNER FULL VOLVO HISTORY, GJ13JMU .£15,490

2010 BMW X1 2.0 20d SE xDrive 5dr, HUGE SPEC : XLINE : XDRIVE, Green, SP10LDC £7,995

2012 Land Rover Range Rover Evoque 2.2 ED4 Pure Tech (2WD) 5dr FSH 3 X STAMPS NAV : LEATHER, Green, AK12UJC £18,495

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2014 BMW 1 SERIES 2.0 118d Sport Sports Hatch 5dr (start/stop) NAVI : 74.3 MPG : £30 TAX, 52,000 Miles, White, NL14FNZ £10,995

2013 Volkswagen Sharan 2.0 TD BlueMotion Tech SE MPV DSG 5dr, Blue, 43,000 miles, FULL VW HISTORY : 7 SEATS, WG62GBE £14,995

2013 Volkswagen Touareg 3.0 TDI V6 R-Line Tiptronic 4x4 5dr (start/stop), Black, NAV : LTHR : PAN-ROOF : XENON, AJ13LM £19,995

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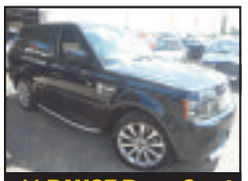

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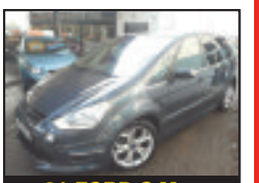

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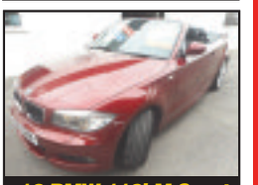

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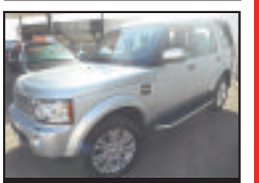

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Nail-biting win for the Centurions

SULLY Centurions travelled the short distance to Dinas Powys and came away with a victory following a nail-biting last few overs.

Batting first, Centurions had a decent start, with Santosh Singh hitting 55, followed by more half centuries from Quasi Ferdous (or Pavel as he's known to everyone) and skipper Jake Griffett.

Dave Goodway's 38 not out also gave some impetus to the final overs as Sully finished on 229 for five after the 45 overs.

For Dinas, bowling honours went to Matthew Todd-Bennett and Jack Houghton, who took two wickets each.

In reply, Dinas recovered from the early loss of Todd and Hannah with Todd-Bennett hitting a fine 72.

Some solid support from Jones (58) Wingren (31) and Harries (21) put the home side in the driving seat. However, Pavel added to his unbeaten 55 with the bat by coming on to take two wickets in two balls in the 43rd over, leaving Dinas Powys needing 10 off the last two overs, with one wicket in hand.

Prashant Choudhary bowled his over for just four runs, leaving Dinas requiring five off the final over.

Man of the moment Pavel bowled a maiden and Centurions won by five runs. This victory keeps Centurions in second place, just seven points behind Crumlin and they are now 22 points clear of third placed Monmouth.

Dinas Powys 224-9, Sully Centurions 229-5.

The second XI, with several players unavailable, hosted Ebbw Vale at Burnham Avenue and lost by five wickets.

Centurions batted first and lost the early wicket of Terry Sylvester, but a great 93 from Aaron Emyr, backed up with 46 from Nick Jones and 20 from Jason Hicks helped the score along to a creditable 216 for 8.

The wickets were evenly spread out between the Ebbw Vale bowlers, with Morgan (2-19) posting the best figures.

In reply Ebbw Vale got off to a great start as skipper Simon Keane (78) and Matthew Hall (51) put on 100 for the first wicket.

In spite of losing the wickets of Owain Keane and Alfie Morgan cheaply, the visitors were always looking confident, with Connor (40) and Shinwauri (25) seeing them home in the 32nd over.

Jason Hicks (2 for 27) for and Dinesh (2 for 51) were the pick of the Centurions' bowlers.

Sully Centurions II 216-8, Ebbw Vale II 219-4.

On Saturday the first XI are at home to Machen while the second XI travel to Machen to take on their second XI.

All players are asked to contact Dave Sylvester or Jake Griffett with their availability.

MF

Shock loss for Athletic bowlers

BARRY Athletic suffered a shock defeat against Rhymney in the last 32 of the Carruthers Shield, Welsh bowling's premier tournament.

In a match they were favourites to win, too many players did not show the application or determination to overcome the challenging surface and lost by 13 shots.

Rink victories were shared with Robert Horgan and Richard Bowen securing wins for Barry but defeats on the rinks skipped by Glyn Thomas and Martin Clarke proved the Athletic's downfall on a humid afternoon in the Gwent valley.

The match started well for Barry quickly establishing a 10 shot lead, led by Robert Horgan with his rink of Gwynfor Parr, Russ Harris and Peter Rogers dominating the opposition.

Richard Bowen, with John Cauldwell making his first team debut also quickly opened up a six shot advantage to put the visitors in a commanding position.

However as the game progressed this lead quickly evaporated as shots were lost across the green particularly on Martin Clarke's rink where a run of nine losing ends from 10 played against Rhymney skip Matthew Wilde created a deficit of 21 shots that was impossible to cover.

Although dropping a four and two 3s Glyn Thomas's rink with Dave Wright playing well at third showed some steel in powering back in the final few ends but lost by a narrow margin of two shots.

Robert Horgan's rink powered on restricting the opposition for most of the game and eventually returning an eight shot victory by 22 shots to 14.

Despite losing the advantage they had built up in the early part of the game, Richard Bowen was level playing the last end but picked up two shots and a rink victory by 17 shots to 15 by trailing the jack through to the back of the head.

This was a disappointing result for the Athletic but shows what can happen when players do not show the application required to master unfamiliar greens and opposition.

With a future against neighbours Dinas Powys coming up this week, the selectors will be hoping that the first team will be able to get this defeat out of their system quickly and get back to winning ways.

Results were more positive for the high flying second team with another emphatic 77 shots and 14 point victory against Whitchurch Hospital on the four wood green at Barry.

With all rinks winning it was left to captain Paul Webley to pick up top rink honours winning by 37-8 with his rink of Johnnie Jones, Terry Collins and Mike Jones.

Continuing his winning run, Dave Snelling and his rink of Gary Jones Andy Cooper and Clive Phillips were similarly impressive and chalked another win by returning a 32-12 victory.

The strong win was backed up on Gary Gane and Mike Vaughan's rinks with the experienced veterans bringing home wins by 28-11 and 23-12 respectively.

Well positioned at the top of the mileage the PG2 side will be looking to build on their advantage when they travel to promotion rivals St Fagan's next week in a fixture that might well decide the silverware this season.

Despite having players in many of the South Vale finals the club will only have two representatives in the National finals in Llandrindod in August.

Glyn Thomas and Martin Clarke will be fancied in the pairs competition after their comprehensive defeat of Jon and Mike Ackland at Penarth Windsor.

Also back at Llandrindod will be Richard Cowling who will be representing the club in the senior singles competition having defeated Dinas' Clive Todd in the final qualifying round.

RB

Good wins for Windsor men

THE men of Penarth Windsor Bowls Club again recorded good wins in both PG matches and the Munro Cup, losing only to Whitchurch in the Alliance.

The PG1 team, despite several absentees, comfortably beat Mackintosh 95-64, scores: Matthews, Burton, Gunter and Holmes 35-8; Evans, Johnson, Hope and Woodcock 21-20; Ellard, Rees, Thorne and Close 21-16.

The other rink of Flitney, Rogers, Hudson and McLeod lost on the last end, 18-20.

The PG2 team extended their winning run against Rhiwbina by 85-82, scores: Fullbrook, Mathias, Hales, Howells 21-21; Davies A Brenton, Daniel, Davies D 25-13; Owen, White, Cucciniello, Woodcock 13-29; Trenchard, Dudley, Coleman, Lewis 26-19.

There was another Munro Cup win, away to Sully Sports, by 21 shots.

Scores: Owen, Lewis, Hope, Woodcock M 23-16; Matthews, Latham, Thorne, Hudson 26-6; Peregrine, Palfrey, Gooding, Close 12-22; Hales, Flitney, Morrish, McLeod 16-14.

Richard Flitney peaked early, bowling his best wood on a trial end.

Having then declared that "bowls was an easy game," he spent the rest of the game failing to prove it.

Two other results are worthy of mention. In the Alan Martin Cup, an away victory at Penarth by 43-29, scores: Flitney, Burton, Close McLeod 30-9; Matthews, Gunter, Hudson Holmes 13-20.

In the private greens, single rink, an excellent win, 27-12, was recorded against Cardiff. The rink was Matthews, Flitney, Close and Woodcock.

The ladies only had one match this week and they went down by two shots against Penarth despite an excellent performance by K Dyer with C Lewis, V Flitney and D Roper, their rink score 16-11.

On Sunday the Windsor was the scene of the annual fun day. This year, the clubhouse took on a 'Caribbean' look and the bowlers took to the green to play in their pirate garb.

The whole event was superbly organised by club president Veronica Flitney with massive help from so many club members.

PM

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The Lions and the All Blacks celebrate a hard-fought series. ALL PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY.

by GARETH JAMIESON

THE British & Irish Lions knew that their third, and decisive, game in this three match test series of the 2017 tour against world champions New Zealand was going to be a close one; yet who would have guessed that, at the end of another absorbing and hard-hitting 80 minutes of rugby, the two teams would be tied not just on the night but overall, the series drawn as the sides battled out a 15-15 draw.

It marked a moral victory for the tourists; after all the pre-tour hype stated that the All Blacks were too strong, too focused, too settled to be upset by a touring party who were, at the start of the tour, both undercooked in terms of preparation and overcooked in terms of how much rugby they had played prior to boarding the plane to the land of the long white cloud.

Yet come the test showdowns the team were at optimum strength, fortune with injuries meaning they were in essence at full strength, and Gatland's ability to get teams peaking at the right time meant that they were more than ready for this climactic battle where no quarter would be given, and none expected.

There were so many superb performances across the series – Sam Warburton's guile and hard-work set the tone after he recovered from injury, while Jonathan Davies showed a maturity and defensive nous across all three games that marked him down as one of the players of the tour, despite not having had the best of seasons either domestically or internationally.

Maro Itoje was intensity personified in his test appearances; with the mark of a man who you could quite easily see wear the captaincy of both England and the Lions, the youngster was dynamic, accurate at the breakdown and covered nearly every blade of grass when called up, while Taulupe Faletau made the absence of Billy Vunipola a non-issue with excellent performances every time he crossed the whitewash.

Conor Murray made the number 9 shirt his own (no mean feat with Rhys Webb breathing down his neck) and Owen Farrell, whether at 10 or 12 (and save for a mediocre 20 minutes on Saturday) was exemplary in his kicking and general performances; his composure with the kicks that won the second test and drew the third test was hugely impressive.

Warren Gatland had been labelled a clown by one New Zealand newspaper after the first test, but he most certainly had the last laugh – strolling into Saturday's post-match press conference wearing a red nose.

Gatland will feel vindicated in the decisions made over the course of the tour, from the paucity of Scottish players selected and the 'logistical' call-up of players situated closest to New Zealand as the tour reached the midway point, to the controversial (in some sections of the British Isles) omissions and selections made over the course of the test series.

The New Zealander may not have wholly ruled himself out of taking charge of the Lions on the South Africa tour in four years time, but with the likelihood of him departing Wales post-2019 Rugby World Cup it seems unlikely that Gatland will be the chosen one in 2021.

Two tours undertaken, two test series undefeated (as is Sam Warburton as captain), Gatland's achievements will go down in the history books as one of the finest records of a Lions coach – and yet the result could so easily have gone either way, such was the nip and tuck way the game played out on Saturday, a breathlessly pulsating encounter which saw the All Blacks again take the game by the scruff of the neck, only for the doggedness of the Lions to chip away at the scoreboard.

Defeat from the jaws of victory is, it must be said, in rugby terms, a very Welsh disease, and in the 78th minute it threatened to engulf England, Ireland and Scotland (assuming the Scots took an interest in a game where their greatest representation was in the stands rather than the pitch) as Liam Williams (under pressure from Keiron Read) knocked on from the restart and Ken Owens caught the ball in an offside position, just after Owen Farrell had levelled the scores from the kicking tee.

The referee's instant decision was to blow for a penalty.

Captain Warburton had talked of Saturday's game as being the culmination of four years of hard work, toil, sweat and tears, so how cruel (and perhaps, to the Welsh eye, predictable) that having done the hard to work to pull level, the game, the series, the tour, would be snatched away by such an error.

Thankfully for those in the red corner, referee Romain Poite's original penalty decision was downgraded to a scrum, Owens deemed to be accidentally offside (watching the replays in slow motion of Owens catching the ball and then dropping it as if it were a hand grenade was, post-decision, a great source of amusement).

Some last-gasp All Black pressure came to naught, and as the ball went dead the Lions had drawn a test series for the first time since 1955, but perhaps more importantly had denied the All Blacks victory at Eden Park, where they hadn't failed to win since 1994.

The All Blacks may feel hard done by (particularly by Poite's reverse decision at the death), having outscored the Lions two tries to nil, but with Beauden Barrett's kicking boots malfunctioning, the draw was a fair result and the series draw equally so.

Kieran Read is unlikely to forget his 100th test cap in a hurry!

Has their lustre been damaged? No more than when England beat them in 2012, or when Ireland beat them in Chicago last year – they'll pick themselves up again quickly and the Rugby Championship should be wary of a wounded All Black.

Post-match there were calls for a fourth game, a decider, something that would, to some, make a mockery of the Lions as a touring party but the thought of seeing these two teams go at it one more time, winner takes all, is tantalising enough to both fans and broadcasters that they may get their wish, with social media already going into overdrive about the possible logistics of such a game (although it appears Eddie Jones has already put the kibosh on said plans by refusing to release players should the game go ahead).

Even if these plans come to nothing – and despite the hollowness of the draw, it is probably better that they don't – it'll take nothing away from what has been an engrossing and captivating test series and a hugely enjoyable tour overall.

While the naysayers were quick to raise the same old issues about the validity of Lions tours after that first test loss, hopefully the performances and results in the last two tests will sharpen peoples' focus when it comes to this most magical of brands; the Lions are alive and well, and on the evidence of the last two tours, more than capable of competing with the best.

So now let the international hostilities resume as Six Nations trophies and World Cups are up for grabs – but lets do it all again in South Africa in 2021!

Owen Farrell with the kick that levelled the scores on the night.

Taulupe Faletau's performances across the whole tour have been incredible.